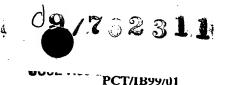# Nucleic acids encoding human TBC-1 protein and polymorphic markers thereof.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention concerns genomic and cDNA sequences of the human *TBC-1* gene. The
5   invention also concerns polypeptides encoded by the *TBC-1* gene. The invention also deals with
antibodies directed specifically against such polypeptides that are useful as diagnostic reagents.
The invention further encompasses biallelic markers of the *TBC-1* gene useful in genetic analysis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The incidence of prostate cancer has dramatically increased over the last decades. It
10   averages 30-50/100,000 males in Western European countries as well as within the US White male
population. In these countries, it has recently become the most commonly diagnosed malignancy,
being one of every four cancers diagnosed in American males. Prostate cancer's incidence is very
much population specific, since it varies from 2/100,000 in China, to over 80/100,000 among
African-American males.

15   In France, the incidence of prostate cancer is 35/100,000 males and it is increasing by
10/100,000 per decade. Mortality due to prostate cancer is also growing accordingly. It is the
second cause of cancer death among French males, and the first one among French males aged over
70. This makes prostate cancer a serious burden in terms of public health.

Prostate cancer is a latent disease. Many men carry prostate cancer cells without overt signs
20   of disease. Autopsies of individuals dying of other causes show prostate cancer cells in 30 % of men
at age 50 and in 60 % of men at age 80. Furthermore, prostate cancer can take up to 10 years to kill
a patient after the initial diagnosis.

The progression of the disease usually goes from a well-defined mass within the prostate to
a breakdown and invasion of the lateral margins of the prostate, followed by metastasis to regional
25   lymph nodes, and metastasis to the bone marrow. Cancer metastasis to bone is common and often
associated with uncontrollable pain.

Unfortunately, in 80 % of cases, diagnosis of prostate cancer is established when the disease
has already metastasized to the bones. Of special interest is the observation that prostate cancers
frequently grow more rapidly in sites of metastasis than within the prostate itself.

30   Early-stage diagnosis of prostate cancer mainly relies today on Prostate Specific Antigen
(PSA) dosage, and allows the detection of prostate cancer seven years before clinical symptoms
become apparent. The effectiveness of PSA dosage diagnosis is however limited, due to its inability
to discriminate between malignant and non-malignant affections of the organ and because not all
prostate cancers give rise to an elevated serum PSA concentration. Furthermore, PSA dosage and

other currently available approaches such as physical examination, tissue biopsy and bone scans are of limited value in predicting disease progression.

Therefore, there is a strong need for a reliable diagnostic procedure which would enable a more systematic early-stage prostate cancer prognosis.

5   Although an early-stage prostate cancer prognosis is important, the possibility of measuring the period of time during which treatment can be deferred is also interesting as currently available medicaments are expensive and generate important adverse effects. However, the aggressiveness of prostate tumors varies widely. Some tumors are relatively aggressive, doubling every six months whereas others are slow-growing, doubling once every five years. In fact, the majority of prostate

10   cancers grows relatively slowly and never becomes clinically manifest. Very often, affected patients are among the elderly and die from another disease before prostate cancer actually develops. Thus, a significant question in treating prostate carcinoma is how to discriminate between tumors that will progress and those that will not progress during the expected lifetime of the patient.

Hence, there is also a strong need for detection means which may be used to evaluate the

15   aggressiveness or the development potential of prostate cancer tumors once diagnosed.

Furthermore, at the present time, there is no means to predict prostate cancer susceptibility. It would also be very beneficial to detect individual susceptibility to prostate cancer. This could allow preventive treatment and a careful follow up of the development of the tumor.

A further consequence of the slow growth rate of prostate cancer is that few cancer cells are

20   actively dividing at any one time, rendering prostate cancer generally resistant to radiation and chemotherapy. Surgery is the mainstay of treatment but it is largely ineffective and removes the ejaculatory ducts, resulting in impotence. Oral oestrogens and luteinizing releasing hormone analogs are also used for treatment of prostate cancer. These hormonal treatments provide marked improvement for many patients, but they only provide temporary relief. Indeed, most of these

25   cancers soon relapse with the development of hormone-resistant tumor cells and the oestrogen treatment can lead to serious cardiovascular complications. Consequently, there is a strong need for preventive and curative treatment of prostate cancer.

Efficacy/tolerance prognosis could be precious in prostate cancer therapy. Indeed, hormonal therapy, the main treatment currently available, presents important side effects. The use of

30   chemotherapy is limited because of the small number of patients with chemosensitive tumors. Furthermore the age profile of the prostate cancer patient and intolerance to chemotherapy make the systematic use of this treatment very difficult.

Therefore, a valuable assessment of the eventual efficacy of a medicament to be administered to a prostate cancer patent as well as the patent's eventual tolerance to it may permit to

35   enhance the benefit/risk ratio of prostate cancer treatment.

It is known today that there is a familial risk of prostate cancer. Clinical studies in the 1950s had already demonstrated a familial aggregation in prostate cancer. Control-case clinical studies

have been conducted more recently to attempt to evaluate the incidence of the genetic risk factors in the disease. Thus Steinberg et al., 1990, and McWhorter et al., 1992 confirm that the risk of prostate cancer is increased in subjects having one or more relatives already affected by the disease and when forms of early diagnosis in the relatives exist.

5   It is now well established that cancer is a disease caused by the deregulation of the expression of certain genes. In fact, the development of a tumor necessitates an important succession of steps. Each of these steps comprises the deregulation of an important gene intervening in the normal metabolism of the cell and the emergence of an abnormal cellular sub-clone which overwhelms the other cell types because of a proliferative advantage. The genetic origin of this
10   concept has found confirmation in the isolation and the characterization of genes which could be responsible. These genes, commonly called "cancer genes", have an important role in the normal metabolism of the cell and are capable of intervening in carcinogenesis following a change.

Recent studies have identified three groups of genes which are frequently mutated in cancer. The first group of genes, called oncogenes, are genes whose products activate cell
15   proliferation. The normal non-mutant versions are called protooncogenes. The mutated forms are excessively or inappropriately active in promoting cell proliferation, and act in the cell in a dominant way in that a single mutant allele is enough to affect the cell phenotype. Activated oncogenes are rarely transmitted as germline mutations since they may probably be lethal when expressed in all the cells. Therefore oncogenes can only be investigated in tumor tissues.
20   The second group of genes which are frequently mutated in cancer, called tumor suppressor genes, are genes whose products inhibit cell growth. Mutant versions in cancer cells have lost their normal function, and act in the cell in a recessive way in that both copies of the gene must be inactivated in order to change the cell phenotype. Most importantly, the tumor phenotype can be rescued by the wild type allele, as shown by cell fusion experiments first described by Harris and
25   colleagues (1969). Germline mutations of tumor suppressor genes may be transmitted and thus studied in both constitutional and tumor DNA from familial or sporadic cases. The current family of tumor suppressors includes DNA-binding transcription factors (i.e., p53, WT1), transcription regulators (i.e., RB, APC, probably BRCA1), protein kinase inhibitors (i.e., p16), among others (for review, see Haber D & Harlow E, 1997).
30   The third group of genes which are frequently mutated in cancer, called mutator genes, are responsible for maintaining genome integrity and/or low mutation rates. Loss of function of both alleles increases cell mutation rates, and as a consequence, proto-oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes may be mutated. Mutator genes can also be classified as tumor suppressor genes, except for the fact that tumorigenesis caused by this class of genes cannot be suppressed simply by restoration
35   of a wild-type allele, as described above. Genes whose inactivation may lead to a mutator phenotype include mismatch repair genes (i.e., MLH1, MSH2), DNA helicases (i.e., BLM, WRN)

4

or other genes involved in DNA repair and genomic stability (i.e., p53, possibly BRCA1 and BRCA2) (For review see Haber D & Harlow E, 1997; Fishel R & Wilson T. 1997; Ellis NA,1997).

There is growing evidence that a critical event in the progression of a tumor cell from a non-metastatic to metastatic phenotype is the loss of function of metastasis-suppressor genes. These

5 genes specifically suppress the ability of a cell to metastasize. Work from several groups has demonstrated that human chromosomes 8, 10, 11 and 17 encode prostate cancer metastasis suppressor activities. However, other human chromosomes such as chromosomes 1, 7, 13, 16, and 18 may also be associated to prostate cancer.

It thus remains to localize and to identify the genes specifically involved in the development

10 and the progression of prostate cancers starting from the genetic analysis of the hereditary and the non-hereditary forms and to define their clinical implications in terms of prognosis and therapeutic innovations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention pertains to nucleic acid molecules comprising the genomic sequence

15 of a novel human gene which encodes a TBC-1 protein. The *TBC-1* genomic sequences comprise regulatory sequence located upstream (5'-end) and downstream (3'-end) of the transcribed portion of said gene, these regulatory sequences being also part of the invention. The human *TBC-1* genomic sequence is included in a previously unknown candidate region of prostate cancer located on chromosome 4.

20 The invention also deals with the two complete cDNA sequences encoding the TBC-1 protein, as well as with the corresponding translation product.

Oligonucleotide probes or primers hybridizing specifically with a *TBC-1* genomic or cDNA sequence are also part of the present invention, as well as DNA amplification and detection methods using said primers and probes.

25 A further object of the invention consists of recombinant vectors comprising any of the nucleic acid sequences described above, and in particular of recombinant vectors comprising a *TBC-1* regulatory sequence or a sequence encoding a TBC-1 protein, as well as of cell hosts and transgenic non human animals comprising said nucleic acid sequences or recombinant vectors.

The invention also concerns a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker and the use thereof.

30 Finally, the invention is directed to methods for the screening of substances or molecules that inhibit the expression of *TBC-1*, as well as with methods for the screening of substances or molecules that interact with a TBC-1 polypeptide.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 : An amino acid alignment of a portion of the amino acid sequence of the TBC-1 protein of SEQ ID No 5 with other proteins sharing amino acid homology with TBC-1. The amino acid numbering refers to the murine TBC-1.

5   ## Brief Description of the sequences provided in the Sequence Listing

SEQ ID No 1 contains a first part of the *TBC-1* genomic sequence comprising the 5' regulatory sequence and the exons 1, 1bis, and 2.

SEQ ID No 2 contains a second part of the *TBC-1* genomic sequence comprising the 12 last exons of the *TBC-1* gene and the 3'regulatory sequence.

10   SEQ ID No 3 contains a first cDNA sequence of the *TBC-1* gene.

SEQ ID No 4 contains a second cDNA sequence of the *TBC-1* gene.

SEQ ID No 5 contains the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNAs of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4.

SEQ ID No 6 contains a primer containing the additional PU 5' sequence described further

15 in Example 3.

SEQ ID No 7 contains a primer containing the additional RP 5' sequence described further in Example 3.

In accordance with the regulations relating to Sequence Listings, the following codes have been used in the Sequence Listing to indicate the locations of biallelic markers within the sequences

20 and to identify each of the alleles present at the polymorphic base. The code "r" in the sequences indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is a guanine, while the other allele is an adenine. The code "y" in the sequences indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is a thymine, while the other allele is a cytosine. The code "m" in the sequences indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is an adenine, while the other allele is an cytosine. The code "k" in the sequences

25 indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is a guanine, while the other allele is a thymine. The code "s" in the sequences indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is a guanine, while the other allele is a cytosine. The code "w" in the sequences indicates that one allele of the polymorphic base is an adenine, while the other allele is an thymine. The nucleotide code of the original allele for each biallelic marker is the following:

30 | Biallelic marker | Original allele |
|---|---|
| 99-430-352 | G |
| 99-20508-456 | C |
| 99-20469-213 | C |
| 5-254-227 | A |
35 | 5-257-353 | C |
| 99-20511-32 | T |

99-20511-221	A
99-20504-90	G
99-20493-238	A
99-20499-221	G
99-20499-364	A
99-20499-399	A
5-249-304	G
99-20485-269	A
99-20481-131	G
99-20481-419	T
99-20480-233	A

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention concerns polynucleotides and polypeptides related to the human *TBC-1* gene (also termed "*TBC-1* gene" throughout the present specification), which is potentially involved in the regulation of the differentiation of various cell types in mammals. A deregulation or an alteration of *TBC-1* expression, or alternatively an alteration in the amino acid sequence of the TBC-1 protein may be involved in the generation of a pathological state related to cell differentiation in a patient, more particularly to abnormal cell proliferation leading to cancer states, such as prostate cancer.

Definitions

Before describing the invention in greater detail, the following definitions are set forth to illustrate and define the meaning and scope of the terms used to describe the invention herein.

The term "*TBC-1* gene", when used herein, encompasses mRNA and cDNA sequences encoding the TBC-1 protein. In the case of a genomic sequence, the *TBC-1* gene also includes native regulatory regions which control the expression of the coding sequence of the *TBC-1* gene.

The term "functionally active fragment" of the TBC-1 protein is intended to designate a polypeptide carrying at least one of the structural features of the TBC-1 protein involved in at least one of the biological functions and/or activity of the TBC-1 protein.

A "heterologous" or "exogenous" polynucleotide designates a purified or isolated nucleic acid that has been placed, by genetic engineering techniques, in the environment of unrelated nucleotide sequences, such as the final polynucleotide construct does not occur naturally. An illustrative, but not limitative, embodiment of such a polynucleotide construct may be represented by a polynucleotide comprising (1) a regulatory polynucleotide derived from the TBC-1 gene sequence and (2) a polynucleotide encoding a cytokine, for example GM-CSF. The polypeptide

encoded by the heterologous polynucleotide will be termed an heterologous polypeptide for the purpose of the present invention.

By a "biologically active fragment or variant" of a regulatory polynucleotide according to the present invention is intended a polynucleotide comprising or alternatively consisting in a

5   fragment of said polynucleotide which is functional as a regulatory region for expressing a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant polynucleotide in a recombinant cell host.

For the purpose of the invention, a nucleic acid or polynucleotide is "functional" as a regulatory region for expressing a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant polynucleotide if said regulatory polynucleotide contains nucleotide sequences which contain transcriptional and

10   translational regulatory information, and such sequences are "operatively linked" to nucleotide sequences which encode the desired polypeptide or the desired polynucleotide. An operable linkage is a linkage in which the regulatory nucleic acid and the DNA sequence sought to be expressed are linked in such a way as to permit gene expression.

A "promoter" refers to a DNA sequence recognized by the synthetic machinery of the cell

15   required to initiate the specific transcription of a gene.

A sequence which is "operably linked" to a regulatory sequence such as a promoter means that said regulatory element is in the correct location and orientation in relation to the nucleic acid to control RNA polymerase initiation and expression of the nucleic acid of interest.

As used herein, the term "operably linked" refers to a linkage of polynucleotide elements in

20   a functional relationship. For instance, a promoter or enhancer is operably linked to a coding sequence if it affects the transcription of the coding sequence. More precisely, two DNA molecules (such as a polynucleotide containing a promoter region and a polynucleotide encoding a desired polypeptide or polynucleotide) are said to be "operably linked" if the nature of the linkage between the two polynucleotides does not (1) result in the introduction of a frame-shift mutation or (2)

25   interfere with the ability of the polynucleotide containing the promoter to direct the transcription of the coding polynucleotide. The promoter polynucleotide would be operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a desired polypeptide or a desired polynucleotide if the promoter is capable of effecting transcription of the polynucleotide of interest.

The term "primer" denotes a specific oligonucleotide sequence which is complementary to

30   a target nucleotide sequence and used to hybridize to the target nucleotide sequence. A primer serves as an initiation point for nucleotide polymerization catalyzed by either DNA polymerase, RNA polymerase or reverse transcriptase.

The term "probe" denotes a defined nucleic acid segment (or nucleotide analog segment, e.g., polynucleotide as defined hereinbelow) which can be used to identify a specific polynucleotide

35   sequence present in samples, said nucleic acid segment comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary of the specific polynucleotide sequence to be identified.

The terms "sample" or "material sample" are used herein to designate a solid or a liquid material suspected to contain a polynucleotide or a polypeptide of the invention. A solid material may be, for example, a tissue slice or biopsy within which is searched the presence of a polynucleotide encoding a TBC-1 protein, either a DNA or RNA molecule or within which is

5   searched the presence of a native or a mutated TBC-1 protein, or alternatively the presence of a desired protein of interest the expression of which has been placed under the control of a *TBC-1* regulatory polynucleotide. A liquid material may be, for example, any body fluid like serum, urine etc., or a liquid solution resulting from the extraction of nucleic acid or protein material of interest from a cell suspension or from cells in a tissue slice or biopsy. The term "biological sample" is also

10   used and is more precisely defined within the Section dealing with DNA extraction.

As used herein, the term "purified" does not require absolute purity; rather, it is intended as a relative definition. Purification if starting material or natural material to at least one order of magnitude, preferably two or three orders, and more preferably four or five orders of magnitude is expressly contemplated. As an example, purification from 0.1% concentration to 10% concentration

15   is two orders of magnitude.

The term "isolated" requires that the material be removed from its original environment (e.g. the natural environment if it is naturally occurring). For example, a naturally-occurring polynucleotide or polypeptide present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotide or DNA or polypeptide, separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system,

20   is isolated. Such polynucleotide could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotide or polypeptide could be part of a composition and still be isolated in that the vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

The term "polypeptide" refers to a polymer of amino acids without regard to the length of the polymer; thus, peptides, oligopeptides, and proteins are included within the definition of

25   polypeptide. This term also does not specify or exclude post-expression modifications of polypeptides, for example, polypeptides which include the covalent attachment of glycosyl groups, acetyl groups, phosphate groups, lipid groups and the like are expressly encompassed by the term polypeptide. Also included within the definition are polypeptides which contain one or more analogs of an amino acid (including, for example, non-naturally occurring amino acids, amino acids

30   which only occur naturally in an unrelated biological system, modified amino acids from mammalian systems etc.), polypeptides with substituted linkages, as well as other modifications known in the art, both naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring.

The term "recombinant polypeptide" is used herein to refer to polypeptides that have been artificially designed and which comprise at least two polypeptide sequences that are not found as

35   contiguous polypeptide sequences in their initial natural environment, or to refer to polypeptides which have been expressed from a recombinant polynucleotide.

The term "purified" is used herein to describe a polypeptide of the invention which has been separated from other compounds including, but not limited to nucleic acids, lipids, carbohydrates and other proteins. A polypeptide is substantially pure when at least about 50%, preferably 60 to 75% of a sample exhibits a single polypeptide sequence. A substantially pure polypeptide typically

5   comprises about 50%, preferably 60 to 90% weight/weight of a protein sample, more usually about 95%, and preferably is over about 99% pure. Polypeptide purity or homogeneity is indicated by a number of means well known in the art, such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of a sample, followed by visualizing a single polypeptide band upon staining the gel. For certain purposes higher resolution can be provided by using HPLC or other means well known in the art.

10 As used herein, the term "non-human animal" refers to any non-human vertebrate, birds and more usually mammals, preferably primates, farm animals such as swine, goats, sheep, donkeys, and horses, rabbits or rodents, more preferably rats or mice. As used herein, the term "animal" is used to refer to any vertebrate, preferable a mammal. Both the terms "animal" and "mammal" expressly embrace human subjects unless preceded with the term "non-human".

15 As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to a polypeptide or group of polypeptides which are comprised of at least one binding domain, where an antibody binding domain is formed from the folding of variable domains of an antibody molecule to form three-dimensional binding spaces with an internal surface shape and charge distribution complementary to the features of an antigenic determinant of an antigen, which allows an immunological reaction with the antigen. Antibodies

20 include recombinant proteins comprising the binding domains, as wells as fragments, including Fab, Fab', F(ab)$_2$, and F(ab')$_2$ fragments.

As used herein, an "antigenic determinant" is the portion of an antigen molecule, in this case a TBC-1 polypeptide, that determines the specificity of the antigen-antibody reaction. An "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant of a polypeptide. An epitope can comprise as few as 3

25 amino acids in a spatial conformation which is unique to the epitope. Generally an epitope consists of at least 6 such amino acids, and more usually at least 8-10 such amino acids. Methods for determining the amino acids which make up an epitope include x-ray crystallography, 2-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance, and epitope mapping e.g. the Pepscan method described by Geysen et al. 1984; PCT Publication No. WO 84/03564; and PCT Publication No. WO

30 84/03506.

Throughout the present specification, the expression "nucleotide sequence" may be employed to designate indifferently a polynucleotide or an oligonucleotide or a nucleic acid. More precisely, the expression "nucleotide sequence" encompasses the nucleic material itself and is thus not restricted to the sequence information (i.e. the succession of letters chosen among the four base

35 letters) that biochemically characterizes a specific DNA or RNA molecule.

As used interchangeably herein, the term "oligonucleotides", and "polynucleotides" include RNA, DNA, or RNA/DNA hybrid sequences of more than one nucleotide in either single chain or

duplex form. The term "nucleotide" as used herein as an adjective to describe molecules comprising RNA, DNA, or RNA/DNA hybrid sequences of any length in single-stranded or duplex form. The term "nucleotide" is also used herein as a noun to refer to individual nucleotides or varieties of nucleotides, meaning a molecule, or individual unit in a larger nucleic acid molecule, comprising a

5   purine or pyrimidine, a ribose or deoxyribose sugar moiety, and a phosphate group, or phosphodiester linkage in the case of nucleotides within an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide. Although the term "nucleotide" is also used herein to encompass "modified nucleotides" which comprise at least one modification (a) an alternative linking group, (b) an analogous form of purine, (c) an analogous form of pyrimidine, or (d) an analogous sugar, for examples of analogous linking

10   groups, purine, pyrimidines, and sugars see for example PCT publication No WO 95/04064. However, the polynucleotides of the invention are preferably comprised of greater than 50% conventional deoxyribose nucleotides, and most preferably greater than 90% conventional deoxyribose nucleotides. The polynucleotide sequences of the invention may be prepared by any known method, including synthetic, recombinant, *ex vivo* generation, or a combination thereof, as

15   well as utilizing any purification methods known in the art.

The term "heterozygosity rate" is used herein to refer to the incidence of individuals in a population which are heterozygous at a particular allele. In a biallelic system, the heterozygosity rate is on average equal to $2P_a(1-P_a)$, where P_a is the frequency of the least common allele. In order to be useful in genetic studies, a genetic marker should have an adequate level of heterozygosity to

20   allow a reasonable probability that a randomly selected person will be heterozygous.

The term "genotype" as used herein refers the identity of the alleles present in an individual or a sample. In the context of the present invention a genotype preferably refers to the description of the biallelic marker alleles present in an individual or a sample. The term "genotyping" a sample or an individual for a biallelic marker consists of determining the specific allele or the specific

25   nucleotide carried by an individual at a biallelic marker.

The term "polymorphism" as used herein refers to the occurrence of two or more alternative genomic sequences or alleles between or among different genomes or individuals. "Polymorphic" refers to the condition in which two or more variants of a specific genomic sequence can be found in a population. A "polymorphic site" is the locus at which the variation occurs. A single

30   nucleotide polymorphism is a single base pair change. Typically a single nucleotide polymorphism is the replacement of one nucleotide by another nucleotide at the polymorphic site. Deletion of a single nucleotide or insertion of a single nucleotide, also give rise to single nucleotide polymorphisms. In the context of the present invention "single nucleotide polymorphism" preferably refers to a single nucleotide substitution. However, the polymorphism can also involve

35   an insertion or a deletion of at least one nucleotide, preferably between 1 and 5 nucleotides. Typically, between different genomes or between different individuals, the polymorphic site may be occupied by two different nucleotides.

The term "biallelic polymorphism" and "biallelic marker" are used interchangeably herein to refer to a single nucleotide polymorphism having two alleles at a fairly high frequency in the population. A "biallelic marker allele" refers to the nucleotide variants present at a biallelic marker site. Typically, the frequency of the less common allele of the biallelic markers of the present

5   invention has been validated to be greater than 1%, preferably the frequency is greater than 10%, more preferably the frequency is at least 20% (i.e. heterozygosity rate of at least 0.32), even more preferably the frequency is at least 30% (i.e. heterozygosity rate of at least 0.42). A biallelic marker wherein the frequency of the less common allele is 30% or more is termed a "high quality biallelic marker".

10   The location of nucleotides in a polynucleotide with respect to the center of the polynucleotide are described herein in the following manner. When a polynucleotide has an odd number of nucleotides, the nucleotide at an equal distance from the 3' and 5' ends of the polynucleotide is considered to be "at the center" of the polynucleotide, and any nucleotide immediately adjacent to the nucleotide at the center, or the nucleotide at the center itself is

15   considered to be "within 1 nucleotide of the center." With an odd number of nucleotides in a polynucleotide any of the five nucleotides positions in the middle of the polynucleotide would be considered to be within 2 nucleotides of the center, and so on. When a polynucleotide has an even number of nucleotides, there would be a bond and not a nucleotide at the center of the polynucleotide. Thus, either of the two central nucleotides would be considered to be "within 1

20   nucleotide of the center" and any of the four nucleotides in the middle of the polynucleotide would be considered to be "within 2 nucleotides of the center", and so on. For polymorphisms which involve the substitution, insertion or deletion of 1 or more nucleotides, the polymorphism, allele or biallelic marker is "at the center" of a polynucleotide if the difference between the distance from the substituted, inserted, or deleted polynucleotides of the polymorphism and the 3' end of the

25   polynucleotide, and the distance from the substituted, inserted, or deleted polynucleotides of the polymorphism and the 5' end of the polynucleotide is zero or one nucleotide. If this difference is 0 to 3, then the polymorphism is considered to be "within 1 nucleotide of the center." If the difference is 0 to 5, the polymorphism is considered to be "within 2 nucleotides of the center." If the difference is 0 to 7, the polymorphism is considered to be "within 3 nucleotides of the center," and

30   so on.

As used herein the terminology "defining a biallelic marker" means that a sequence includes a polymorphic base from a biallelic marker. The sequences defining a biallelic marker may be of any length consistent with their intended use, provided that they contain a polymorphic base from a biallelic marker. The sequence has between 1 and 500 nucleotides in length, preferably

35   between 5, 10 , 15, 20, 25, or 40 and 200 nucleotides and more preferably between 30 and 50 nucleotides in length. Each biallelic marker therefore corresponds to two forms of a polynucleotide sequence included in a gene, which, when compared with one another, present a nucleotide

modification at one position. Preferably, the sequences defining a biallelic marker include a polymorphic base selected from the group consisting of the biallelic markers A1 to A19 and the complements thereof. In some embodiments the sequences defining a biallelic marker comprise one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19 and the

5 complementary sequences thereto. Likewise, the term "marker" or "biallelic marker" requires that the sequence is of sufficient length to practically (although not necessarily unambiguously) identify the polymorphic allele, which usually implies a length of at least 4, 5, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 40 nucleotides.

The term "upstream" is used herein to refer to a location which is toward the 5' end of the

10 polynucleotide from a specific reference point.

The terms "base paired" and "Watson & Crick base paired" are used interchangeably herein to refer to nucleotides which can be hydrogen bonded to one another be virtue of their sequence identities in a manner like that found in double-helical DNA with thymine or uracil residues linked to adenine residues by two hydrogen bonds and cytosine and guanine residues linked by three

15 hydrogen bonds (See Stryer, L., *Biochemistry*, 4th edition, 1995).

The terms "complementary" or "complement thereof" are used herein to refer to the sequences of polynucleotides which is capable of forming Watson & Crick base pairing with another specified polynucleotide throughout the entirety of the complementary region. For the purpose of the present invention, a first polynucleotide is deemed to be complementary to a second

20 polynucleotide when each base in the first polynucleotide is paired with its complementary base. Complementary bases are, generally, A and T (or A and U), or C and G. "Complement" is used herein as a synonym from "complementary polynucleotide", "complementary nucleic acid" and "complementary nucleotide sequence". These terms are applied to pairs of polynucleotides based solely upon their sequences and not any particular set of conditions under which the two

25 polynucleotides would actually bind.

Variants and fragments

1. Polynucleotides

The invention also relates to variants and fragments of the polynucleotides described herein, particularly of a *TBC-1* gene containing one or more biallelic markers according to the invention.

30 Variants of polynucleotides, as the term is used herein, are polynucleotides that differ from a reference polynucleotide. A variant of a polynucleotide may be a naturally occurring variant such as a naturally occurring allelic variant, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Such non-naturally occurring variants of the polynucleotide may be made by mutagenesis techniques, including those applied to polynucleotides, cells or organisms. Generally, differences

35 are limited so that the nucleotide sequences of the reference and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical.

Variants of polynucleotides according to the invention include, without being limited to, nucleotide sequences that are at least 95% identical to any of SEQ ID Nos 1-4 or the sequences complementary thereto or to any polynucleotide fragment of at least 8 consecutive nucleotides of any of SEQ ID Nos 1-4 or the sequences complementary thereto, and preferably at least 98%

5   identical, more particularly at least 99.5% identical, and most preferably at least 99.9% identical to any of SEQ ID Nos 1-4 or the sequences complementary thereto or to any polynucleotide fragment of at least 8 consecutive nucleotides of any of SEQ ID Nos 1-4 or the sequences complementary thereto.

Changes in the nucleotide of a variant may be silent, which means that they do not alter the

10   amino acids encoded by the polynucleotide.

However, nucleotide changes may also result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence. The substitutions, deletions or additions may involve one or more nucleotides. The variants may be altered in coding or non-coding regions or both. Alterations in the coding regions may produce

15   conservative or non-conservative amino acid substitutions, deletions or additions.

In the context of the present invention, particularly preferred embodiments are those in which the polynucleotides encode polypeptides which retain substantially the same biological function or activity as the mature TBC-1 protein.

A polynucleotide fragment is a polynucleotide having a sequence that entirely is the same

20   as part but not all of a given nucleotide sequence, preferably the nucleotide sequence of a *TBC-1* gene, and variants thereof. The fragment can be a portion of an exon or of an intron of a *TBC-1* gene. It can also be a portion of the regulatory sequences of the *TBC-1* gene. Preferably, such fragments comprise the polymorphic base of a biallelic marker selected from the group consisting of the biallelic markers A1 to A19 and the complements thereof.

25   Such fragments may be "free-standing", i.e. not part of or fused to other polynucleotides, or they may be comprised within a single larger polynucleotide of which they form a part or region. However, several fragments may be comprised within a single larger polynucleotide.

As representative examples of polynucleotide fragments of the invention, there may be mentioned those which have from about 4, 6, 8, 15, 20, 25, 40, 10 to 20, 10 to 30, 30 to 55, 50 to

30   100, 75 to 100 or 100 to 200 nucleotides in length. Preferred are those fragments having about 49 nucleotides in length, such as those of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19 or the sequences complementary thereto and containing at least one of the biallelic markers of a *TBC-1* gene which are described herein.

2. Polypeptides.

35   The invention also relates to variants, fragments, analogs and derivatives of the polypeptides described herein, including mutated TBC-1 proteins.

14

The variant may be 1) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or 2) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or 3) one in

5   which the mutated TBC-1 is fused with another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the polypeptide (for example, polyethylene glycol), or 4) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the mutated TBC-1, such as a leader or secretory sequence or a sequence which is employed for purification of the mutated TBC-1 or a preprotein sequence. Such variants are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art.

10   More particularly, a variant TBC-1 polypeptide comprises amino acid changes ranging from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 to 20 substitutions, additions or deletions of one aminoacid, preferably from 1 to 10, more preferably from 1 to 5 and most preferably from 1 to 3 substitutions, additions or deletions of one amino acid. The preferred amino acid changes are those which have little or no influence on the biological activity or the capacity of the variant TBC-1 polypeptide to be recognized by antibodies

15   raised against a native TBC-1 protein.

By homologous peptide according to the present invention is meant a polypeptide containing one or several aminoacid additions, deletions and/or substitutions in the amino acid sequence of a TBC-1 polypeptide. In the case of an aminoacid substitution, one or several - consecutive or non-consecutive- aminoacids are replaced by « equivalent » aminoacids.

20   The expression "equivalent" amino acid is used herein to designate any amino acid that may be substituted for one of the amino acids having similar properties, such that one skilled in the art of peptide chemistry would expect the secondary structure and hydropathic nature of the polypeptide to be substantially unchanged. Generally, the following groups of amino acids represent equivalent changes: (1) Ala, Pro, Gly, Glu, Asp, Gln, Asn, Ser, Thr; (2) Cys, Ser, Tyr, Thr; (3) Val, Ile, Leu,

25   Met, Ala, Phe; (4) Lys, Arg, His; (5) Phe, Tyr, Trp, His.

By an equivalent aminoacid according to the present invention is also meant the replacement of a residue in the L-form by a residue in the D form or the replacement of a Glutamic acid (E) residue by a Pyro-glutamic acid compound. The synthesis of peptides containing at least one residue in the D-form is, for example, described by Koch (1977).

30   A specific, but not restrictive, embodiment of a modified peptide molecule of interest according to the present invention, which consists in a peptide molecule which is resistant to proteolysis, is a peptide in which the -CONH- peptide bond is modified and replaced by a (CH_2NH) reduced bond, a (NHCO) retro inverso bond, a (CH_2-O) methylene-oxy bond, a (CH_2-S) thiomethylene bond, a (CH_2CH_2) carba bond, a (CO-CH_2) cetomethylene bond, a (CHOH-CH_2)

35   hydroxyethylene bond), a (N-N) bound, a E-alcene bond or also a -CH=CH- bond.

The polypeptide accoding to the invention could have post-translational modifications. For example, it can present the following modifications: acylation, disulfide bond formation, prenylation, carboxymethylation and phosphorylation.

A polypeptide fragment is a polypeptide having a sequence that entirely is the same as part
5 but not all of a given polypeptide sequence, preferably a polypeptide encoded by a *TBC-1* gene and variants thereof. Preferred fragments include those regions possessing antigenic properties and which can be used to raise antibodies against the TBC-1 protein.

Such fragments may be "free-standing", i.e. not part of or fused to other polypeptides, or they may be comprised within a single larger polypeptide of which they form a part or region.
10 However, several fragments may be comprised within a single larger polypeptide.

As representative examples of polypeptide fragments of the invention, there may be mentioned those which comprise at least about 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 to 15, 10 to 20, 15 to 40, or 30 to 55 amino acids of the TBC-1. In some embodiments, the fragments contain at least one amino acid mutation in the TBC-1 protein.

15 **Identity Between Nucleic Acids Or Polypeptides**

The terms "percentage of sequence identity" and "percentage homology" are used interchangeably herein to refer to comparisons among polynucleotides and polypeptides, and are determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence in the comparison window may comprise
20 additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison and multiplying the result
25 by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity. Homology is evaluated using any of the variety of sequence comparison algorithms and programs known in the art. Such algorithms and programs include, but are by no means limited to, TBLASTN, BLASTP, FASTA, TFASTA, and CLUSTALW (Pearson and Lipman, 1988; Altschul et al., 1990; Thompson et al., 1994; Higgins et al., 1996; Altschul et al., 1993). In a particularly preferred embodiment, protein and nucleic acid
30 sequence homologies are evaluated using the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool ("BLAST") which is well known in the art (see, e.g., Karlin and Altschul, 1990; Altschul et al., 1990, 1993, 1997). In particular, five specific BLAST programs are used to perform the following task:

(1) BLASTP and BLAST3 compare an amino acid query sequence against a protein sequence database;
35   (2) BLASTN compares a nucleotide query sequence against a nucleotide sequence database;

(3) BLASTX compares the six-frame conceptual translation products of a query nucleotide sequence (both strands) against a protein sequence database;

(4) TBLASTN compares a query protein sequence against a nucleotide sequence database translated in all six reading frames (both strands); and

(5) TBLASTX compares the six-frame translations of a nucleotide query sequence against the six-frame translations of a nucleotide sequence database.

The BLAST programs identify homologous sequences by identifying similar segments, which are referred to herein as "high-scoring segment pairs," between a query amino or nucleic acid sequence and a test sequence which is preferably obtained from a protein or nucleic acid sequence database. High-scoring segment pairs are preferably identified (i.e., aligned) by means of a scoring matrix, many of which are known in the art. Preferably, the scoring matrix used is the BLOSUM62 matrix (Gonnet et al., 1992; Henikoff and Henikoff, 1993). Less preferably, the PAM or PAM250 matrices may also be used (see, e.g., Schwartz and Dayhoff, eds., 1978). The BLAST programs evaluate the statistical significance of all high-scoring segment pairs identified, and preferably selects those segments which satisfy a user-specified threshold of significance, such as a user-specified percent homology. Preferably, the statistical significance of a high-scoring segment pair is evaluated using the statistical significance formula of Karlin (see, e.g., Karlin and Altschul, 1990).

Stringent Hybridization Conditions

By way of example and not limitation, procedures using conditions of high stringency are as follows: Prehybridization of filters containing DNA is carried out for 8 h to overnight at 65°C in buffer composed of 6X SSC, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA, and 500 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA. Filters are hybridized for 48 h at 65°C, the preferred hybridization temperature, in prehybridization mixture containing 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA and 5-20 X 10^6 cpm of ^{32}P-labeled probe. Alternatively, the hybridization step can be performed at 65°C in the presence of SSC buffer, 1 x SSC corresponding to 0.15M NaCl and 0.05 M Na citrate. Subsequently, filter washes can be done at 37°C for 1 h in a solution containing 2 x SSC, 0.01% PVP, 0.01% Ficoll, and 0.01% BSA, followed by a wash in 0.1 X SSC at 50°C for 45 min. Alternatively, filter washes can be performed in a solution containing 2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, or 0.5 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, or 0.1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 68°C for 15 minute intervals. Following the wash steps, the hybridized probes are detectable by autoradiography. Other conditions of high stringency which may be used are well known in the art and as cited in Sambrook et al., 1989; and Ausubel et al., 1989, are incorporated herein in their entirety. These hybridization conditions are suitable for a nucleic acid molecule of about 20 nucleotides in length. There is no need to say that the hybridization conditions described above are to be adapted according to the length of the desired nucleic acid, following techniques well known to the one skilled in the art. The suitable hybridization conditions may for example be adapted

according to the teachings disclosed in the book of Hames and Higgins (1985) or in Sambrook et al.(1989).

Candidate Region On The Chromosome 4 (Linkage Analysis).

In order to localize the prostate cancer gene(s) starting from families, a systematic familial

5   study of genetic link research is carried out using markers of the microsatellite type described at the Genethon laboratory by the Jean Weissenbach team (Dib et al., 1996).

The studies of genetic link or of "linkage" are based on the principle according to which two neighboring sequences on a chromosome do not present (or very rarely present) recombinations by crossing-over during meiosis. To do this, microsatellite DNA sequences (chromosomal markers)

10   constantly co-inherited with the disease studied are searched for in a family having a predisposition for this disease. These DNA sequences organized in the form of a repetition of di-, tri- or tetranucleotides are systematically present along the genome, and thus allow the identification of chromosomal fragments harboring them. More than 5000 microsatellite markers, have been localized with precision on the genome as a result of the first studies on the genetic map carried out

15   at Genethon under the supervision of Jean Weissenbach, and on the physical map (using the "Yeast Artificial Chromosomes"), work conducted by Daniel Cohen at C.E.P.H. and at Genethon (Chumakov et al., 1995). Genetic link analysis calculates the probabilities of recombinations of the target gene with the chromosomal markers used, according to the genealogical tree, the transmission of the disease, and the transmission of the markers. Thus if a particular allele of a given marker is

20   transmitted with the disease more often than chance would have it (recombination level of between 0 and 0.5), it is possible to deduce that the target gene in question is found in the neighborhood of the marker. Using this technique, it has been possible to localize several genes of genetic predisposition to familial cancers. In order to be able to be included in a genetic link study, the families affected by a hereditary form of the disease must satisfy the "informativeness" criteria:

25   several affected subjects (and whose constitutional DNA is available) per generation, and at best having a large number of siblings.

By linkage analysis, the inventors have identified a candidate region for prostate cancer on chromosome 4. Indeed, the LOD scores at 2 points between the disease and the markers on a total population of approximately fifty families present a value of 2.49 for marker D4S398 which

30   indicates a probable genetic link with this marker. The curve of the variation of the LOD score on a map of 5 markers is centered on D4S398 and the value higher than 3.3 indicates that a gene involved in familial prostate cancer is probably found in the region located between markers D4S2978 and D4S3018, or a space of approximately 9.7 cM.

Homologies Of The Novel Human Gene Translation Product With A Known Murine Protein.

A novel human gene was found in this candidate region. It presents a good probability to be involved in cancer. Database homology searches have allowed the inventors to determine that the translation product of this novel human gene has significant identity with a murine protein called

5 tbc1. Therefore, the novel human gene of the invention has thus been called *TBC-1* throughout the present specification. *TBC-1* comprises an open Reading frame that encodes a novel protein, the TBC-1 protein. Based on sequence similarity, an alignment of a portion of the TBC-1 amino acid sequence with the known tbc1 murine protein, it is expected that TBC1 protein may play a role in the cell cycle and in differentiation of various tissues. Indeed, the TBC1 protein contains a 200

10 amino acid domain called the TBC domain that is homologous to regions in the tre2-oncogene and in the yeast regulators of mitosis BUB2 and cdc16.

The cDNA of the murine *tbc1* gene has been described in US Patent No US 5,700,927 and it encodes a putative protein product of 1141 amino acids. The N-terminus of the murine tbc1 protein contains stretches of cysteines and histidines which may form zinc finger structures in the

15 mature polypeptides. The N-terminus also comprises short stretches of basic amino acids which may be involved in a nuclear localization signal. The TBC domain of the murine tbc1 protein contains several tyrosine residues which are conserved in BUB2 and cdc16. The C-terminus of the murine tbc1 protein contains a long stretch of evenly spaced leucine residues which are susceptible to form a leucine zipper motif.

20 The murine *tbc1* gene has been shown to be highly expressed in testis and kidney. However, lower levels of expression have also be identified in lung, spleen, brain, and heart. Moreover, murine tbc1 is a nuclear protein which is expressed in a cell- and stage-specific manner.

Studies of murine bone marrow have demonstrated that erythroid cells and megakaryocytes expressed substantial levels of the murine tbc1 protein, but none was detected in mature neutrophils.

25 Similarly, spermatogonia do not express murine *tbc1*, but primary and secondary spermatocytes express abundant *tbc1*. Later in the differentiation of the germ cells, the *tbc1* levels appear to decrease in spermatids and active sperm. The differentiation program of spermatogonia to spermatocytes therefore involves a significant upregulation of murine *tbc1* expression.

The general distribution of murine *tbc1* is not tissue-specific, but is cell-specific within

30 individual tissues and intimately linked to tissue differentiation. The developmental expression of murine *tbc1*, particularly in hematopoietic and germ cells, suggests that this gene plays a role in the terminal differentiation program of several tissues.

Consequently, an alteration in the expression of the *TBC-1* gene or in the amino acid sequence of the TBC-1 protein leading to an altered biological activity of the latter is likely to

35 cause, directly or indirectly, cell proliferation disorders and thus diseases related to an abnormal cell proliferation such as cancer, particularly prostate cancer.

Genomic Sequence Of *TBC-1*

The present invention concerns the genomic sequence of *TBC-1*. The present invention encompasses the *TBC-1* gene, or *TBC-1* genomic sequences consisting of, consisting essentially of, or comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, a sequence

5   complementary thereto, as well as fragments and variants thereof. These polynucleotides may be purified, isolated, or recombinant.

The inventors have sequenced two portions of the *TBC-1* genomic sequence. The first portion of the *TBC-1* gene sequence contains the three first exons of the *TBC-1* gene, designated as Exon 1, Exon 1*bis* and Exon 2, and the 5' regulatory sequence located upstream of the transcribed

10   sequences. The sequence of the first portion of the genomic sequence is disclosed in SEQ ID No 1. The second portion contains the twelve last exons of the *TBC-1* gene, designated as exons A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L, and the 3' regulatory sequence which is located downstream of the transcribed sequences.

The exon positions in SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 are detailed below in Table A.

Table A

Exon	Position in SEQ ID No 1		Intron	Position in SEQ ID No 1	
	Beginning	End		Beginning	End
1	2001	2077	1	2078	12739
1bis	12292	12373	1bis	12374	12739
2	12740	13249	2	13250	at least 17590
Exon	**Position in SEQ ID No 2**		**Intron**	**Position in SEQ ID No 2**	
	Beginning	End		Beginning	End
A	4661	4789	A	4790	6115
B	6116	6202	B	6203	9918
C	9919	10199	C	10200	14520
D	14521	14660	D	14661	50256
E	50257	50442	E	50443	56255
F	56256	56417	F	56418	63325
G	63326	63484	G	63485	76035
H	76036	76280	H	76281	78363
I	78364	78523	I	78524	85294
J	85295	85464	J	85465	93416
K	93417	93590	K	93591	97475
L	97476	97960			

Intron 1 refers to the nucleotide sequence located between Exon 1 and Exon 2; Intron 1bis refers to the nucleotide sequence located between Exon 1bis and Exon 2; Intron A refers to the nucleotide sequence located between Exon A and Exon B; and so on. The position of the introns is

20   detailed in Table A.

The *TBC-1* introns defined hereinafter for the purpose of the present invention are not exactly what is generally understood as "introns" by the one skilled in the art and will consequently be further defined below.

Generally, an intron is defined as a nucleotide sequence that is present both in the genomic
5 DNA and in the unspliced mRNA molecule, and which is absent from the mRNA molecule which has already gone through splicing events. In the case of the *TBC-1* gene, the inventors have found that at least two different spliced mRNA molecules are produced when this gene is transcribed, as it will be described in detail in a further section of the specification. The first spliced mRNA molecule comprises Exons 1 and 2. Thus, the genomic nucleotide sequence comprised between Exon 1 and
10 Exon 2 is an intronic sequence as regards to this first mRNA molecule, despite the fact that this intronic sequence contains Exon 1*bis*. In contrast, Exon 1*bis* is of course an exonic nucleotide sequence as regards to the second *TBC-1* mRNA molecule.

For the purpose of the present invention and in order to make a clear and unambiguous designation of the different nucleic acids encompassed, it has been postulated that the
15 polynucleotides contained both in any of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 and in any of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 or 4 are considered as exonic sequences. Conversely, the polynucleotides contained in any of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 but which are absent both from the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 3 and from the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 4 are considered as intronic sequences.

20 The nucleic acids defining the *TBC-1* introns described above, as well as their fragments and variants, may be used as oligonucleotide primers or probes in order to detect the presence of a copy of the *TBC-1* gene in a test sample, or alternatively in order to amplify a target nucleotide sequence within the *TBC-1* intronic sequences.

Thus, the invention embodies purified, isolated, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising
25 a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the 15 exons of the *TBC-1* gene which are described in the present invention, or a sequence complementary thereto. The invention also deals with purified, isolated, or recombinant nucleic acids comprising a combination of at least two exons of the *TBC-1* gene, wherein the polynucleotides are arranged within the nucleic acid, from the 5'-end to the 3'-end of said nucleic acid, in the same order as in SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2.

30 Thus, the invention embodies purified, isolated, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the introns of the *TBC-1* gene, or a sequence complementary thereto.

The invention also encompasses a purified, isolated, or recombinant polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, or 95% nucleotide identity with
35 a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 or a complementary sequence thereto or a fragment thereof. The nucleotide differences as regards to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 may be generally randomly distributed throughout the entire nucleic acid.

Nevertheless, preferred nucleic acids are those wherein the nucleotide differences as regards to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 are predominantly located outside the coding sequences contained in the exons. These nucleic acids, as well as their fragments and variants, may be used as oligonucleotide primers or probes in order to detect the presence of a copy of the *TBC-1* gene in a

5   test sample, or alternatively in order to amplify a target nucleotide sequence within the *TBC-1* sequences.

Another object of the invention consists of a purified, isolated, or recombinant nucleic acid that hybridizes with a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 or a complementary sequence thereto or a variant thereof, under the stringent hybridization conditions as

10   defined above.

Particularly preferred nucleic acids of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, or the complements thereof. Additionally preferred

15   nucleic acids of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 1 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 1: 1-1000, 1001-2000, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, 4001-5000, 5001-6000, 6001-7000, 7001-8000, 8001-9000,

20   9001-10000, 10001-11000, 11001-12000, 12001-13000, 13001-14000, 14001-15000, 15001-16000, 16001-17000, and 17001-17590. Other preferred nucleic acids of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 2 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the

25   following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 2: 1-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-15000, 15001-20000, 20001-25000, 25001-30000, 30001-35000, 35001-40000, 40001-45000, 45001-50000, 50001-55000, 55001-60000, 60001-65000, 65001-70000, 70001-75000, 75001-80000, 80001-85000, 85001-90000, 90001-95000, and 95001-99960.

While this section is entitled "Genomic Sequences of *TBC-1*," it should be noted that

30   nucleic acid fragments of any size and sequence may also be comprised by the polynucleotides described in this section, flanking the genomic sequences of *TBC-1* on either side or between two or more such genomic sequences.

TBC-1 cDNA Sequences

The inventors have discovered that the expression of the *TBC-1* gene leads to the

35   production of at least two mRNA molecules, respectively a first and a second *TBC-1* transcription

product, as the results of alternative splicing events. They result from two distinct first exons, namely Exon 1 and Exon 1*bis*.

The first transcription product comprises Exons 1, 2, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L. This cDNA of SEQ ID No 3 includes a 5'-UTR region, spanning the whole Exon 1 and part of

5 Exon 2. This 5'-UTR region starts from the nucleotide at position 1 and ends at the nucleotide at position 170 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 3. The cDNA of SEQ ID No 3 includes a 3'-UTR region starting from the nucleotide at position 3726 and ending at the nucleotide at position 3983 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 3. This first transcription product harbors a polyadenylation signal located between the nucleotide at position 3942 and the nucleotide at

10 position 3947 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 3.

The second *TBC-1* transcription product comprises Exons 1*bis*, 2, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L. This cDNA of SEQ ID No 4 includes a 5'-UTR region starting from the nucleotide at position 1 and ending at the nucleotide at position 175 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 4. This second cDNA also includes a 3'-UTR region starting from the nucleotide at position 3731 and

15 ending at the nucleotide at position 3988 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 4. This second transcription product harbors a polyadenylation signal located between the nucleotide at position 3947 and the nucleotide at position 3952 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 4.

The 5'-end sequence of this second *TBC-1* mRNA, more particularly the nucleotide sequence comprised between the nucleotide in position 1 and the nucleotide in position 458 of the

20 nucleic acid of SEQ ID No 4 molecule corresponds to the nucleotide sequence of a 5'-EST that has been obtained from a human pancreas cDNA library and characterized following the teachings of the PCT Application No WO 96/34981. This 5'-EST is also part of the invention.

Another object of the invention consists of a purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and

25 4 and to nucleic acid fragments thereof.

Preferred nucleic acid fragments of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4 consist in polynucleotides comprising their respective Open Reading Frames encoding the TBC-1 protein.

Other preferred nucleic acid fragments of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4 consist in polynucleotides comprising at least a part of their respective 5'-UTR or 3'-UTR regions.

30 The invention also pertains to a purified or isolated nucleic acid having at least a 95% of nucleotide identity with any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4, or a fragment thereof.

Another object of the invention consists of purified, isolated or recombinant nucleic acids comprising a polynucleotide that hybridizes, under the stringent hybridization conditions defined

35 herein, with any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4, or a sequence complementary thereto or a fragment thereof.

The invention also relates to isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a

contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or

1000 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 3 and

4, or the complements thereof. Particularly preferred nucleic acids of the invention include isolated,

5   purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25,

30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 3 or the

complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the

following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 3: 1-500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, 2001-

2500, 2501-3000, 3001-3500, and 3501-3983. Additionally preferred nucleic acids of the invention

10   include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least

12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID

No 4 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10

of the following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 4: 1-500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000,

2001-2500, 2501-3000, 3001-3500, and 3501-3988. Such a nucleic acid is notably useful as

15   polynucleotide probe or primer specific for the *TBC-1* gene or the *TBC-1* mRNAs and cDNAs.

While this section is entitled " *TBC-1* cDNA Sequences," it should be noted that nucleic

acid fragments of any size and sequence may also be comprised by the polynucleotides described in

this section, flanking the genomic sequences of *TBC-1* on either side or between two or more such

genomic sequences.

20   **Coding Regions**

The *TBC-1* open reading frame is contained in the two *TBC-1* mRNA molecules of about 4

kilobases isolated by the inventors.

More precisely, the effective *TBC-1* coding sequence is comprised between the nucleotide

at position 171 and the nucleotide at position 3725 of SEQ ID No 3, and between the nucleotide at

25   position 176 and the nucleotide at position 3730 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 4.

The invention further provides a purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a

polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid

sequence located between the nucleotide at position 171 and the nucleotide at position 3725 of SEQ

ID No 3, and a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence located between the nucleotide at

30   position 176 and the nucleotide at position 3730 of SEQ ID No 4 or a variant or fragment thereof or

a sequence complementary thereto.

The present invention concerns a purified or isolated nucleic acid encoding a human TBC-1

protein, wherein said TBC-1 protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5, a

nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, a fragment or a variant thereof. The present invention

35   also embodies isolated, purified, and recombinant polynucleotides which encode a polypeptides

comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids, preferably at least 8 or 10 amino acids,

more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, or 100 amino acids of SEQ ID No 5. In a

preferred embodiment, the present invention embodies isolated, purified, and recombinant

polynucleotides which encode a polypeptides comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino

acids, preferably at least 8 or 10 amino acids, more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, or

5   100 amino acids of SEQ ID No 5 wherein said contiguous span includes at least 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 of

the following amino acid positions in SEQ ID No 5: 1-300, 301-600, 601-900, and 901-1168.

The above disclosed polynucleotide that contains only coding sequences derived from the

TBC-1 ORF may be expressed in a desired host cell or a desired host organism, when said

polynucleotide is placed under the control of suitable expression signals. Such a polynucleotide,

10   when placed under the suitable expression signals, may be inserted in a vector for its expression.

Regulatory Sequences Of *TBC-1*

The invention further deals with a purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising the

nucleotide sequence of a regulatory region which is located either upstream of the first exon of the

TBC-1 gene and which is contained in the *TBC-1* genomic sequence of SEQ ID No 1, or

15   downstream of the last exon of the *TBC-1* gene and which is contained in the *TBC-1* genomic

sequence of SEQ ID No 2.

The 5'-regulatory sequence of the *TBC-1* gene is localized between the nucleotide in

position 1 and the nucleotide in position 2000 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1. The 3'-

regulatory sequence of the *TBC-1* gene is localized between nucleotide position 97961 and

20   nucleotide position 99960 of SEQ ID No 2.

Polynucleotides derived from the 5' and 3' regulatory regions are useful in order to detect

the presence of at least a copy of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 or a fragment thereof

in a test sample.

The promoter activity of the 5' regulatory regions contained in *TBC-1* can be assessed as

25   described below.

Genomic sequences lying upstream of the *TBC-1* Exons are cloned into a suitable promoter

reporter vector, such as the pSEAP-Basic, pSEAP-Enhancer, pβgal-Basic, pβgal-Enhancer, or

pEGFP-1 Promoter Reporter vectors available from Clontech. Briefly, each of these promoter

reporter vectors include multiple cloning sites positioned upstream of a reporter gene encoding a

30   readily assayable protein such as secreted alkaline phosphatase, beta galactosidase, or green

fluorescent protein. The sequences upstream of the *TBC-1* coding region are inserted into the

cloning sites upstream of the reporter gene in both orientations and introduced into an appropriate

host cell. The level of reporter protein is assayed and compared to the level obtained from a vector

which lacks an insert in the cloning site. The presence of an elevated expression level in the vector

35   containing the insert with respect to the control vector indicates the presence of a promoter in the

insert. If necessary, the upstream sequences can be cloned into vectors which contain an enhancer

for increasing transcription levels from weak promoter sequences. A significant level of expression
above that observed with the vector lacking an insert indicates that a promoter sequence is present
in the inserted upstream sequence.

Promoter sequences within the upstream genomic DNA may be further defined by
5   constructing nested deletions in the upstream DNA using conventional techniques such as
Exonuclease III digestion. The resulting deletion fragments can be inserted into the promoter
reporter vector to determine whether the deletion has reduced or obliterated promoter activity. In
this way, the boundaries of the promoters may be defined. If desired, potential individual regulatory
sites within the promoter may be identified using site directed mutagenesis or linker scanning to
10   obliterate potential transcription factor binding sites within the promoter, individually or in
combination. The effects of these mutations on transcription levels may be determined by inserting
the mutations into the cloning sites in the promoter reporter vectors.

Thus, the minimal size of the promoter of the *TBC-1* gene can be determined through the
measurement of *TBC-1* expression levels. For this assay, an expression vector comprising
15   decreasing sizes from the promoter generally ranging from 2 kb to 100 bp, with a 3' end which is
constant, operably linked to *TBC-1* coding sequence or to a reporter gene is used. Cells, which are
preferably prostate cells and more preferably prostate cancer cells, are transfected with this vector
and the expression level of the gene is assessed.

The strength and the specificity of the promoter of the *TBC-1* gene can be assessed through
20   the expression levels of the gene operably linked to this promoter in different types of cells and
tissues. In one embodiment, the efficacy of the promoter of the *TBC-1* gene is assessed in normal
and cancer cells. In a preferred embodiment, the efficacy of the promoter of the *TBC-1* gene is
assessed in normal prostate cells and in prostate cancer cells which can present different degrees of
malignancy.

25   Polynucleotides carrying the regulatory elements located both at the 5' end and at the 3' end
of the *TBC-1* cDNAs may be advantageously used to control the transcriptional and translational
activity of an heterologous polynucleotide of interest.

Thus, the present invention also concerns a purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a
polynucleotide which is selected from the group consisting of the 5' and 3' regulatory regions, or a
30   sequence complementary thereto or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof. "5' regulatory
region" refers to the nucleotide sequence located between positions 1 and 2000 of SEQ ID No 1.
"3' regulatory region" refers to the nucleotide sequence located between positions 97961 and 99960
of SEQ ID No 2.

The invention also pertains to a purified or isolated nucleic acid comprising a
35   polynucleotide having at least 95% nucleotide identity with a polynucleotide selected from the
group consisting of the 5' and 3' regulatory regions, advantageously 99 % nucleotide identity,
preferably 99.5% nucleotide identity and most preferably 99.8% nucleotide identity with a

polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the 5' and 3' regulatory regions, or a sequence complementary thereto or a variant thereof or a biologically active fragment thereof.

Another object of the invention consists of purified, isolated or recombinant nucleic acids comprising a polynucleotide that hybridizes, under the stringent hybridization conditions defined

5 herein, with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of the 5'- and 3' regulatory regions, or a sequence complementary thereto or a variant thereof or a biologically active fragment thereof.

The 5'UTR and 3'UTR regions of a gene are of particular importance in that they often comprise regulatory elements which can play a role in providing appropriate expression levels,

10 particularly through the control of mRNA stability.

A 5' regulatory polynucleotide of the invention may include the 5'-UTR located between the nucleotide at position 1 and the nucleotide at position 170 of SEQ ID No 3, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof.

Alternatively, a 5'-regulatory polynucleotide of the invention may include the 5'-UTR

15 located between the nucleotide at position 1 and the nucleotide at position 175 of SEQ ID No 4, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof.

A 3' regulatory polynucleotide of the invention may include the 3'-UTR located between the nucleotide at position 3726 and the nucleotide at position 3983 of SEQ ID No 4, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof.

20 Thus, the invention also pertains to a purified or isolated nucleic acid which is selected from the group consisting of :

a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of the 5' regulatory region;

b) a nucleic acid comprising a biologically active fragment or variant of the nucleic acid of the 5' regulatory region.

25 Preferred fragments of the nucleic acid of the 5' regulatory region have a length of about 1000 nucleotides, more particularly of about 400 nucleotides, more preferably of about 200 nucleotides and most preferably about 100 nucleotides. More particularly, the invention further includes specific elements within this regulatory region, these elements preferably including the promoter region.

30 Preferred fragments of the 3' regulatory region are at least 50, 100, 150, 200, 300 or 400 bases in length.

By a "biologically active fragment or variant" of a *TBC-1* regulatory polynucleotide according to the present invention is intended a polynucleotide comprising or alternatively consisting in a fragment of said polynucleotide which is functional as a regulatory region for

35 expressing a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant polynucleotide in a recombinant cell host.

For the purpose of the invention, a nucleic acid or polynucleotide is "functional" as a regulatory region for expressing a recombinant polypeptide or a recombinant polynucleotide if said

regulatory polynucleotide contains nucleotide sequences which contain transcriptional and translational regulatory information, and if such sequences are "operatively linked" to nucleotide sequences which encode the desired polypeptide or the desired polynucleotide. An operable linkage is a linkage in which the regulatory nucleic acid and the DNA sequence sought to be expressed are

5   linked in such a way as to permit gene expression.

In order, to identify the relevant biologically active polynucleotide derivatives of the 5' or 3' regulatory region, the one skill in the art will refer to the book of Sambrook et al. (Sambrook, 1989) in order to use a recombinant vector carrying a marker gene (i.e. beta galactosidase, chloramphenicol acetyl transferase, etc.) the expression of which will be detected when placed

10   under the control of a biologically active derivative polynucleotide of the 5' or 3' regulatory region.

Regulatory polynucleotides of the invention may be prepared from any of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 by cleavage using the suitable restriction enzymes, the one skill in the art being guided by the book of Sambrook et al. (1989). Regulatory polynucleotides may also be prepared by digestion of any of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2 by an exonuclease

15   enzyme, such as Bal31 (Wabiko et al., 1986). These regulatory polynucleotides can also be prepared by chemical synthesis, as described elsewhere in the specification, when the synthesis of oligonucleotide probes or primers is disclosed.

The regulatory polynucleotides according to the invention may be advantageously part of a recombinant expression vector that may be used to express a coding sequence in a desired host cell

20   or host organism. The recombinant expression vectors according to the invention are described elsewhere in the specification.

The invention also encompasses a polynucleotide comprising :

a) a nucleic acid comprising a regulatory nucleotide sequence of the 5' regulatory region, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof;

25   b) a polynucleotide encoding a desired polypeptide or nucleic acid, operably linked to the nucleic acid comprising a regulatory nucleotide sequence of the 5' regulatory region, or its biologically active fragment or variant.

c) Optionally, a nucleic acid comprising a 3' regulatory polynucleotide, preferably a 3'regulatory polynucleotide of the invention.

30   The desired polypeptide encoded by the above described nucleic acid may be of various nature or origin, encompassing proteins of prokaryotic or eukaryotic origin. Among the polypeptides expressed under the control of a *TBC-1* regulatory region, it may be cited bacterial, fungal or viral antigens. Are also encompassed eukaryotic proteins such as intracellular proteins, such as "house keeping" proteins, membrane-bound proteins, like receptors, and secreted proteins

35   like the numerous endogenous mediators such as cytokines.

The desired nucleic acid encoded by the above described polynucleotide, usually a RNA molecule, may be complementary to a *TBC-1* coding sequence and thus useful as an antisense polynucleotide.

Such a polynucleotide may be included in a recombinant expression vector in order to

5 express a desired polypeptide or a desired polynucleotide in host cell or in a host organism. Suitable recombinant vectors that contain a polynucleotide such as described hereinbefore are disclosed elsewhere in the specification.

TBC-1 Polypeptide And Peptide Fragments Thereof

It is now easy to produce proteins in high amounts by genetic engineering techniques

10 through expression vectors such as plasmids, phages or phagemids. The polynucleotide that code for one the polypeptides of the present invention is inserted in an appropriate expression vector in order to produce the polypeptide of interest *in vitro.*

Thus, the present invention also concerns a method for producing one of the polypeptides described herein, and especially a polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 or a fragment or a variant thereof,

15 wherein said method comprises the steps of :

a) culturing, in an appropriate culture medium, a cell host previously transformed or transfected with the recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a TBC-1 polypeptide, or a fragment or a variant thereof;

b) harvesting the culture medium thus conditioned or lyse the cell host, for example by

20 sonication or by an osmotic shock;

c) separating or purifying, from the said culture medium, or from the pellet of the resultant host cell lysate the thus produced polypeptide of interest.

d) Optionally characterizing the produced polypeptide of interest.

In a specific embodiment of the above method, step a) is preceded by a step wherein the

25 nucleic acid coding for a TBC-1 polypeptide, or a fragment or a variant thereof, is inserted in an appropriate vector, optionally after an appropriate cleavage of this amplified nucleic acid with one or several restriction endonucleases. The nucleic acid coding for a TBC-1 polypeptide or a fragment or a variant thereof may be the resulting product of an amplification reaction using a pair of primers according to the invention (by SDA, TAS, 3SR NASBA, TMA etc.).

30 The polypeptides according to the invention may be characterized by binding onto an immunoaffinity chromatography column on which polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies directed to a polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5, or a fragment or a variant thereof, have previously been immobilized.

Purification of the recombinant proteins or peptides according to the present invention may

35 be carried out by passage onto a Nickel or Cupper affinity chromatography column. The Nickel chromatography column may contain the Ni-NTA resin (Porath et al., 1975).

The polypeptides or peptides thus obtained may be purified, for example by high performance liquid chromatography, such as reverse phase and/or cationic exchange HPLC, as described by Rougeot et al. (1994). The reason to prefer this kind of peptide or protein purification is the lack of byproducts found in the elution samples which renders the resultant purified protein or

5   peptide more suitable for a therapeutic use.

Another object of the present invention consists in a purified or isolated TBC-1 polypeptide or a fragment or a variant thereof.

In a preferred embodiment, the TBC-1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5 or a fragment or a variant thereof. The present invention also embodies isolated,

10   purified, and recombinant polypeptides comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids, preferably at least 8 to 10 amino acids, more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150 or 200 amino acids of SEQ ID No 5. The present invention also embodies isolated, purified, and recombinant polypeptides comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids, preferably at least 8 to 10 amino acids, more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150 or 200 amino acids

15   of SEQ ID No 5, wherein said contiguous span includes at least 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 of the following amino acid positions: 1-200, 201-400, 401-600, 601-800, 801-1000, 1001-1168.

The invention also encompasses a purified, isolated, or recombinant polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 90, 95, 98 or 99% amino acid identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5 or a fragment thereof.

20   The TBC-1 polypeptide of the invention possesses amino acid homologies as regards to the murine TBC-1 protein of 1141 amino acids in length which is described in US Patent No US 5,700,927. The TBC-1 protein of the invention also possesses some homologies with two other proteins : the Pollux drosophila protein (Zhang et al., 1996) and the CDC16 protein from *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Wilsón et al., 1994). Figure 1 represents an amino acid alignment of a

25   portion of the amino acid sequence of the TBC-1 protein of SEQ ID No 5 with other proteins sharing amino acid homology with TBC-1. The upper line shows the whole amino acid sequence of the murine tbc-1 protein described in US Patent No US 5,700,927; the second line represents part of the amino acid sequence of the TBC-1 protein of SEQ ID No 5; the third line (Genbank access No : *dmu50542*) depicts the amino acid sequence of the Pollux protein mentioned above; the fourth line

30   (Genbank access No : *celf35h12*) shows the amino acid sequence of the *C. elegans* protein mentioned above; the fifth line presents positions in which consensus amino acids are identified, i.e. amino acids shared by the sequences presented in the four upper lines, when present.

The TBC-1 polypeptide of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5 has 1168 amino acids in length. The TBC-1 polypeptide includes a "TBC domain" which is spanning from the amino acid

35   in position 786 to the amino acid in position 974 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5. This TBC domain is represented in Figure 1 as a grey area spanning from the amino acid numbered 758 to the amino acid numbered 949. This TBC domain is likely to regulate protein-protein interactions.

Moreover, the TBC-1 TBC domain includes the amino acid sequence EVGYCQGL, spanning from the amino acid in position 886 to the amino acid in position 893 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5. The EVGYCQGL amino acid sequence spans from the amino acid numbered 861 to the amino acid numbered 868 of Figure 1. This site may interact with a kinase. Based on the structural

5   similarity to *cdc16*, a yeast regulator of mitosis, TBC-1 is likely to regulate mitosis and cytokinesis by interacting with other proteins which also participate with the regulation of mitosis, cytokinesis and septum formation.

Preferred polypeptides of the invention comprise the TBC domain of TBC-1, or alternatively at least the EVGYCQGL amino acid sequence motif.

10   A further object of the present invention concerns a purified or isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1, 2, 3, and 4 or fragments or variants thereof.

A single variant molecule of the TBC-1 protein is explicitly excluded from the scope of the present invention, which is a polypeptide having the same amino acid sequence than the murine

15   tbc1 protein described in the US Patent No 5,700,927.

Amino acid deletions, additions or substitutions in the TBC-1 protein are preferably located outside of the TBC domain as defined above. Most preferably, a mutated TBC-1 protein has an intact "EVGYCQGL" amino acid motif.

Such a mutated TBC-1 protein may be the target of diagnostic tools, such as specific

20   monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies, useful for detecting the mutated TBC-1 protein in a sample.

The invention also encompasses a TBC-1 polypeptide or a fragment or a variant thereof in which at least one peptide bound has been modified as described in the "Definitions" section.

Antibodies That Bind *TBC-1* Polypeptides of the Invention

Any TBC-1 polypeptide or whole protein may be used to generate antibodies capable of

25   specifically binding to an expressed TBC-1 protein or fragments thereof as described.

One antibody composition of the invention is capable of specifically binding or specifically bind to the variant of the TBC-1 protein of SEQ ID No 5. For an antibody composition to specifically bind to TBC-1, it must demonstrate at least a 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 50%, or 100% greater binding affinity for TBC-1 protein than for another protein in an ELISA, RIA, or other

30   antibody-based binding assay.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention concerns antibody compositions, either polyclonal or monoclonal, capable of selectively binding, or selectively bind to an epitope-containing a polypeptide comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids, preferably at least 8 to 10 amino acids, more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150 or 200 amino acids of SEQ

35   ID No 5; Optionally said epitope comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 of the following amino acid positions : 1-200, 201-400, 401-600, 601-800, 801-1000, 1001-1168.

The invention also concerns a purified or isolated antibody capable of specifically binding to a mutated TBC-1 protein or to a fragment or variant thereof comprising an epitope of the mutated TBC-1 protein. In another preferred embodiment, the present invention concerns an antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide comprising at least 10 consecutive amino acids of a TBC-1

5   protein and including at least one of the amino acids which can be encoded by the trait causing mutations.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention concerns the use in the manufacture of antibodies of a polypeptide comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids, preferably at least 8 to 10 amino acids, more preferably at least 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150 or 200 amino acids of SEQ

10   ID No 5; Optionally said polypeptide comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 of the following amino acid positions : 1-200, 201-400, 401-600, 601-800, 801-1000, 1001-1168.

The antibodies of the invention may be labeled by any one of the radioactive, fluorescent or enzymatic labels known in the art.

The TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 or a fragment thereof can be used for the

15   preparation of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies.

The TBC-1 polypeptide expressed from a DNA sequence comprising at least one of the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 may also be used to generate antibodies capable of specifically binding to the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5or a fragment thereof .

Preferred antibodies according to the invention are prepared using TBC-1 peptide fragments

20   that do not comprise the EVGYCQGL amino acid motif.

Other preferred antibodies of the invention are prepared using TBC-1 peptide fragments that do not comprise the TBC domain defined elsewhere in the specification.

The antibodies may be prepared from hybridomas according to the technique described by Kohler and Milstein in 1975. The polyclonal antibodies may be prepared by immunization of a

25   mammal, especially a mouse or a rabbit, with a polypeptide according to the invention that is combined with an adjuvant of immunity, and then by purifying of the specific antibodies contained in the serum of the immunized animal on a affinity chromatography column on which has previously been immobilized the polypeptide that has been used as the antigen.

The present invention also includes, chimeric single chain Fv antibody fragments (Martineau et

30   al., 1998), antibody fragments obtained through phage display libraries (Ridder et al., 1995; Vaughan et al., 1995) and humanized antibodies (Reinmann et al., 1997; Leger et al., 1997).

Antibody preparations prepared according to either protocol are useful in quantitative immunoassays which determine concentrations of antigen-bearing substances in biological samples; they are also used semi-quantitatively or qualitatively to identify the presence of antigen in a biological

35   sample. The antibodies may also be used in therapeutic compositions for killing cells expressing the protein or reducing the levels of the protein in the body.

Consequently, the invention is also directed to a method for detecting specifically the presence of a TBC-1 polypeptide according to the invention in a biological sample, said method comprising the following steps :

5   a) bringing into contact the biological sample with a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a TBC-1 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5, or to a peptide fragment or variant thereof; and

b) detecting the antigen-antibody complex formed.

The invention also concerns a diagnostic kit for detecting *in vitro* the presence of a TBC-1 polypeptide according to the present invention in a biological sample, wherein said kit comprises:

10   a) a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a TBC-1 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5, or to a peptide fragment or variant thereof, optionally labeled;

b) a reagent allowing the detection of the antigen-antibody complexes formed, said reagent carrying optionally a label, or being able to be recognized itself by a labeled reagent, more

15 particularly in the case when the above-mentioned monoclonal or polyclonal antibody is not labeled by itself.

TBC-1-Related Biallelic Markers

The inventors have discovered nucleotide polymorphisms located within the genomic DNA containing the *TBC-1* gene, and among them SNP that are also termed biallelic markers. The

20 biallelic markers of the invention can be used for example for the generation of genetic map, the linkage analysis, the association studies.

A- Identification Of *TBC-1*-related Biallelic Markers

There are two preferred methods through which the biallelic markers of the present invention can be generated. In a first method, DNA samples from unrelated individuals are pooled

25 together, following which the genomic DNA of interest is amplified and sequenced. The nucleotide sequences thus obtained are then analyzed to identify significant polymorphisms.

One of the major advantages of this method resides in the fact that the pooling of the DNA samples substantially reduces the number of DNA amplification reactions and sequencing which must be carried out. Moreover, this method is sufficiently sensitive so that a biallelic marker

30 obtained therewith usually shows a sufficient degree of informativeness for conducting association studies.

In a second method for generating biallelic markers, the DNA samples are not pooled and are therefore amplified and sequenced individually. The resulting nucleotide sequences obtained are then also analyzed to identify significant polymorphisms.

35   It will readily be appreciated that when this second method is used, a substantially higher number of DNA amplification reactions must be carried out. It will further be appreciated that

including such potentially less informative biallelic markers in association studies to identify

potential genetic associations with a trait may allow in some cases the direct identification of causal

mutations, which may, depending on their penetrance, be rare mutations. This method is usually .

preferred when biallelic markers need to be identified in order to perform association studies within

5   candidate genes.

In both methods, the genomic DNA samples from which the biallelic markers of the present

invention are generated are preferably obtained from unrelated individuals corresponding to a

heterogeneous population of known ethnic background, or from familial cases.

The number of individuals from whom DNA samples are obtained can vary substantially,

10   preferably from about 10 to about 1000, preferably from about 50 to about 200 individuals. It is

usually preferred to collect DNA samples from at least about 100 individuals in order to have

sufficient polymorphic diversity in a given population to generate as many markers as possible and

to generate statistically significant results.

As for the source of the genomic DNA to be subjected to analysis, any test sample can be

15   foreseen without any particular limitation. The preferred source of genomic DNA used in the

context of the present invention is the peripheral venous blood of each donor.

The techniques of DNA extraction are well-known to the skilled technician. Details of a

preferred embodiment are provided in Example 2.

DNA samples can be pooled or unpooled for the amplification step. DNA amplification

20   techniques are well-known to those skilled in the art.

Amplification techniques that can be used in the context of the present invention include,

but are not limited to, the ligase chain reaction (LCR) described in EP-A- 320 308, WO 9320227

and EP-A-439 182, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR, RT-PCR) and techniques such as the

nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA) described in Guatelli J.C., et al.(1990) and in

25   Compton J.(1991), Q-beta amplification as described in European Patent Application No 4544610,

strand displacement amplification as described in Walker et al.(1996) and EP A 684 315 and, target

mediated amplification as described in PCT Publication WO 9322461.

LCR and Gap LCR are exponential amplification techniques, both depend on DNA ligase to

join adjacent primers annealed to a DNA molecule. In Ligase Chain Reaction (LCR), probe pairs

30   are used which include two primary (first and second) and two secondary (third and fourth) probes,

all of which are employed in molar excess to target. The first probe hybridizes to a first segment of

the target strand and the second probe hybridizes to a second segment of the target strand, the first

and second segments being contiguous so that the primary probes abut one another in 5' phosphate-

3'hydroxyl relationship, and so that a ligase can covalently fuse or ligate the two probes into a fused

35   product. In addition, a third (secondary) probe can hybridize to a portion of the first probe and a

fourth (secondary) probe can hybridize to a portion of the second probe in a similar abutting

fashion. Of course, if the target is initially double stranded, the secondary probes also will

hybridize to the target complement in the first instance. Once the ligated strand of primary probes is separated from the target strand, it will hybridize with the third and fourth probes, which can be ligated to form a complementary, secondary ligated product. It is important to realize that the ligated products are functionally equivalent to either the target or its complement. By repeated

5   cycles of hybridization and ligation, amplification of the target sequence is achieved. A method for multiplex LCR has also been described (WO 9320227). Gap LCR (GLCR) is a version of LCR where the probes are not adjacent but are separated by 2 to 3 bases.

For amplification of mRNAs, it is within the scope of the present invention to reverse transcribe mRNA into cDNA followed by polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); or, to use a single

10   enzyme for both steps as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,322,770 or, to use Asymmetric Gap LCR (RT-AGLCR) as described by Marshall et al.(1994). AGLCR is a modification of GLCR that allows the amplification of RNA.

The PCR technology is the preferred amplification technique used in the present invention. A variety of PCR techniques are familiar to those skilled in the art. For a review of PCR

15   technology, see White (1997) and the publication entitled "PCR Methods and Applications" (1991, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press). In each of these PCR procedures, PCR primers on either side of the nucleic acid sequences to be amplified are added to a suitably prepared nucleic acid sample along with dNTPs and a thermostable polymerase such as Taq polymerase, Pfu polymerase, or Vent polymerase. The nucleic acid in the sample is denatured and the PCR primers are

20   specifically hybridized to complementary nucleic acid sequences in the sample. The hybridized primers are extended. Thereafter, another cycle of denaturation, hybridization, and extension is initiated. The cycles are repeated multiple times to produce an amplified fragment containing the nucleic acid sequence between the primer sites. PCR has further been described in several patents including US Patents 4,683,195; 4,683,202; and 4,965,188.

25   The PCR technology is the preferred amplification technique used to identify new biallelic markers. A typical example of a PCR reaction suitable for the purposes of the present invention is provided in Example 3.

One of the aspects of the present invention is a method for the amplification of a *TBC-1* gene, particularly the genomic sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 or of the cDNA sequence of SEQ

30   ID Nos 3 or 4 or a fragment or variant thereof in a test sample, preferably using the PCR technology. The method comprises the steps of contacting a test sample suspected of containing the target *TBC-1* sequence or portion thereof with amplification reaction reagents comprising a pair of amplification primers.

Thus, the present invention also relates to a method for the amplification of a *TBC-1* gene

35   sequence, particularly of a fragment of the genomic sequence of SEQ ID No 1 or of the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID No 2 or 3, or a fragment or a variant thereof in a test sample, said method comprising the steps of :

a) contacting a test sample suspected of containing the targeted *TBC-1* gene sequence or portion thereof with amplification reaction reagents comprising a pair of amplification primers located on either side of the *TBC-1* region to be amplified, and

        b) optionally, detecting the amplification products.

5   The invention also concerns a kit for the amplification of a *TBC-1* gene sequence, particularly of a portion of the genomic sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1 or 2, or of the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID Nos 3 or 4, or a variant thereof in a test sample, wherein said kit comprises:

        a) a pair of oligonucleotide primers located on either side of the *TBC-1* region to be amplified;

10   b) optionally, the reagents necessary for performing the amplification reaction.

In one embodiment of the above amplification method and kit, the amplification product is detected by hybridization with a labeled probe having a sequence which is complementary to the amplified region. In another embodiment of the above amplification method and kit, primers comprise a sequence which is selected from the group consisting of B1 to B15, C1 to C15, D1 to

15 D19, and E1 to E19.

In a first embodiment of the present invention, biallelic markers are identified using genomic sequence information generated by the inventors. Sequenced genomic DNA fragments are used to design primers for the amplification of 500 bp fragments. These 500 bp fragments are amplified from genomic DNA and are scanned for biallelic markers. Primers may be designed

20 using the OSP software (Hillier L. and Green P., 1991). All primers may contain, upstream of the specific target bases, a common oligonucleotide tail that serves as a sequencing primer. Those skilled in the art are familiar with primer extensions, which can be used for these purposes.

Preferred primers, useful for the amplification of genomic sequences encoding the candidate genes, focus on promoters, exons and splice sites of the genes. A biallelic marker

25 presents a higher probability to be an eventual causal mutation if it is located in these functional regions of the gene. Preferred amplification primers of the invention include the nucleotide sequences of B1 to B15 and C1 to C15 further detailed in Example 3.

The amplification products generated as described above with the primers of the invention are then sequenced using methods known and available to the skilled technician. Preferably, the

30 amplified DNA is subjected to automated dideoxy terminator sequencing reactions using a dye-primer cycle sequencing protocol. Following gel image analysis and DNA sequence extraction, sequence data are automatically processed with adequate software to assess sequence quality.

A polymorphism analysis software is used that detects the presence of biallelic sites among individual or pooled amplified fragment sequences. Polymorphism search is based on the presence

35 of superimposed peaks in the electrophoresis pattern. These peaks which present distinct colors correspond to two different nucleotides at the same position on the sequence. The polymorphism has to be detected on both strands for validation.

19 biallelic markers were found in the *TBC-1* gene. They are detailed in the Table 2. They are located in intronic regions.

B- Genotyping Of *TBC-1*-Related Biallelic Markers

The polymorphisms identified above can be further confirmed and their respective

5   frequencies can be determined through various methods using the previously described primers and probes. These methods can also be useful for genotyping either new populations in association studies or linkage analysis or individuals in the context of detection of alleles of biallelic markers which are known to be associated with a given trait. The genotyping of the biallelic markers is also important for the mapping. Those skilled in the art should note that the methods described below

10 can be equally performed on individual or pooled DNA samples.

Once a given polymorphic site has been found and characterized as a biallelic marker as described above, several methods can be used in order to determine the specific allele carried by an individual at the given polymorphic base.

The identification of biallelic markers described previously allows the design of appropriate

15 oligonucleotides, which can be used as probes and primers, to amplify a *TBC-1* gene containing the polymorphic site of interest and for the detection of such polymorphisms.

The biallelic markers according to the present invention may be used in methods for the identification and characterization of an association between alleles for one or several biallelic markers of the sequence of the *TBC-1* gene and a trait.

20 The identified polymorphisms, and consequently the biallelic markers of the invention, may be used in methods for the detection in an individual of *TBC-1* alleles associated with a trait, more particularly a trait related to a cell differentiation or abnormal cell proliferation disorders, and most particularly a trait related to cancer diseases, specifically prostate cancer.

In one embodiment the invention encompasses methods of genotyping comprising

25 determining the identity of a nucleotide at a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker or the complement thereof in a biological sample; optionally, wherein said *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker is selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19, and the complements thereof, or optionally the biallelic markers in linkage disequilibrium therewith; optionally, wherein said biological sample is derived from a single subject; optionally, wherein the identity of the nucleotides at said biallelic marker is

30 determined for both copies of said biallelic marker present in said individual's genome; optionally, wherein said biological sample is derived from multiple subjects; Optionally, the genotyping methods of the invention encompass methods with any further limitation described in this disclosure, or those following, specified alone or in any combination; Optionally, said method is performed *in vitro*; optionally, further comprising amplifying a portion of said sequence

35 comprising the biallelic marker prior to said determining step; Optionally, wherein said amplifying is performed by PCR, LCR, or replication of a recombinant vector comprising an origin of replication and said fragment in a host cell; optionally, wherein said determining is performed by a

hybridization assay, a sequencing assay, a microsequencing assay, or an enzyme-based mismatch detection assay.

Source of Nucleic Acids for genotyping

Any source of nucleic acids, in purified or non-purified form, can be utilized as the starting
5   nucleic acid, provided it contains or is suspected of containing the specific nucleic acid sequence desired. DNA or RNA may be extracted from cells, tissues, body fluids and the like as described above. While nucleic acids for use in the genotyping methods of the invention can be derived from any mammalian source, the test subjects and individuals from which nucleic acid samples are taken are generally understood to be human.

10 Amplification Of DNA Fragments Comprising Biallelic Markers

Methods and polynucleotides are provided to amplify a segment of nucleotides comprising one or more biallelic marker of the present invention. It will be appreciated that amplification of DNA fragments comprising biallelic markers may be used in various methods and for various purposes and is not restricted to genotyping. Nevertheless, many genotyping methods, although not
15 all, require the previous amplification of the DNA region carrying the biallelic marker of interest. Such methods specifically increase the concentration or total number of sequences that span the biallelic marker or include that site and sequences located either distal or proximal to it. Diagnostic assays may also rely on amplification of DNA segments carrying a biallelic marker of the present invention. Amplification of DNA may be achieved by any method known in the art. Amplification
20 techniques are described above in the section entitled, "Identification of *TBC-1*-related biallelic markers."

Some of these amplification methods are particularly suited for the detection of single nucleotide polymorphisms and allow the simultaneous amplification of a target sequence and the identification of the polymorphic nucleotide as it is further described below.

25 The identification of biallelic markers as described above allows the design of appropriate oligonucleotides, which can be used as primers to amplify DNA fragments comprising the biallelic markers of the present invention. Amplification can be performed using the primers initially used to discover new biallelic markers which are described herein or any set of primers allowing the amplification of a DNA fragment comprising a biallelic marker of the present invention.

30 In some embodiments the present invention provides primers for amplifying a DNA fragment containing one or more biallelic markers of the present invention. Preferred amplification primers are listed in Example 2. It will be appreciated that the primers listed are merely exemplary and that any other set of primers which produce amplification products containing one or more biallelic markers of the present invention are also of use.

35 The spacing of the primers determines the length of the segment to be amplified. In the context of the present invention, amplified segments carrying biallelic markers can range in size from at least about 25 bp to 35 kbp. Amplification fragments from 25-3000 bp are typical,

fragments from 50-1000 bp are preferred and fragments from 100-600 bp are highly preferred. It will be appreciated that amplification primers for the biallelic markers may be any sequence which allow the specific amplification of any DNA fragment carrying the markers. Amplification primers may be labeled or immobilized on a solid support as described in "Oligonucleotide probes and

5   primers".

Methods of Genotyping DNA samples for Biallelic Markers

Any method known in the art can be used to identify the nucleotide present at a biallelic marker site. Since the biallelic marker allele to be detected has been identified and specified in the present invention, detection will prove simple for one of ordinary skill in the art by employing any

10   of a number of techniques. Many genotyping methods require the previous amplification of the DNA region carrying the biallelic marker of interest. While the amplification of target or signal is often preferred at present, ultrasensitive detection methods which do not require amplification are also encompassed by the present genotyping methods. Methods well-known to those skilled in the art that can be used to detect biallelic polymorphisms include methods such as, conventional dot

15   blot analyzes, single strand conformational polymorphism analysis (SSCP) described by Orita et al.(1989), denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE), heteroduplex analysis, mismatch cleavage detection, and other conventional techniques as described in Sheffield et al.(1991), White et al.(1992), Grompe et al.(1989 and 1993). Another method for determining the identity of the nucleotide present at a particular polymorphic site employs a specialized exonuclease-resistant

20   nucleotide derivative as described in US patent 4,656,127.

Preferred methods involve directly determining the identity of the nucleotide present at a biallelic marker site by sequencing assay, enzyme-based mismatch detection assay, or hybridization assay. The following is a description of some preferred methods. A highly preferred method is the microsequencing technique. The term "sequencing" is generally used herein to refer to polymerase

25   extension of duplex primer/template complexes and includes both traditional sequencing and microsequencing.

1) Sequencing Assays

The nucleotide present at a polymorphic site can be determined by sequencing methods. In a preferred embodiment, DNA samples are subjected to PCR amplification before sequencing as

30   described above. DNA sequencing methods are described in "Sequencing Of Amplified Genomic DNA And Identification Of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms".

Preferably, the amplified DNA is subjected to automated dideoxy terminator sequencing reactions using a dye-primer cycle sequencing protocol. Sequence analysis allows the identification of the base present at the biallelic marker site.

35

2) Microsequencing Assays

In microsequencing methods, the nucleotide at a polymorphic site in a target DNA is detected by a single nucleotide primer extension reaction. This method involves appropriate microsequencing primers which, hybridize just upstream of the polymorphic base of interest in the target nucleic acid. A polymerase is used to specifically extend the 3' end of the primer with one

5   single ddNTP (chain terminator) complementary to the nucleotide at the polymorphic site. Next the identity of the incorporated nucleotide is determined in any suitable way.

Typically, microsequencing reactions are carried out using fluorescent ddNTPs and the extended microsequencing primers are analyzed by electrophoresis on ABI 377 sequencing machines to determine the identity of the incorporated nucleotide as described in EP 412 883, the

10   disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Alternatively capillary electrophoresis can be used in order to process a higher number of assays simultaneously. An example of a typical microsequencing procedure that can be used in the context of the present invention is provided in Example 4.

Different approaches can be used for the labeling and detection of ddNTPs. A

15   homogeneous phase detection method based on fluorescence resonance energy transfer has been described by Chen and Kwok (1997) and Chen et al.(1997). In this method, amplified genomic DNA fragments containing polymorphic sites are incubated with a 5'-fluorescein–labeled primer in the presence of allelic dye-labeled dideoxyribonucleoside triphosphates and a modified Taq polymerase. The dye-labeled primer is extended one base by the dye-terminator specific for the

20   allele present on the template. At the end of the genotyping reaction, the fluorescence intensities of the two dyes in the reaction mixture are analyzed directly without separation or purification. All these steps can be performed in the same tube and the fluorescence changes can be monitored in real time. Alternatively, the extended primer may be analyzed by MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry. The base at the polymorphic site is identified by the mass added onto the

25   microsequencing primer (see Haff and Smirnov, 1997).

Microsequencing may be achieved by the established microsequencing method or by developments or derivatives thereof. Alternative methods include several solid-phase microsequencing techniques. The basic microsequencing protocol is the same as described previously, except that the method is conducted as a heterogeneous phase assay, in which the primer

30   or the target molecule is immobilized or captured onto a solid support. To simplify the primer separation and the terminal nucleotide addition analysis, oligonucleotides are attached to solid supports or are modified in such ways that permit affinity separation as well as polymerase extension. The 5' ends and internal nucleotides of synthetic oligonucleotides can be modified in a number of different ways to permit different affinity separation approaches, e.g., biotinylation. If a

35   single affinity group is used on the oligonucleotides, the oligonucleotides can be separated from the incorporated terminator regent. This eliminates the need of physical or size separation. More than one oligonucleotide can be separated from the terminator reagent and analyzed simultaneously if

more than one affinity group is used. This permits the analysis of several nucleic acid species or more nucleic acid sequence information per extension reaction. The affinity group need not be on the priming oligonucleotide but could alternatively be present on the template. For example, immobilization can be carried out via an interaction between biotinylated DNA and streptavidin-

5   coated microtitration wells or avidin-coated polystyrene particles. In the same manner, oligonucleotides or templates may be attached to a solid support in a high-density format. In such solid phase microsequencing reactions, incorporated ddNTPs can be radiolabeled (Syvänen, 1994) or linked to fluorescein (Livak and Hainer, 1994). The detection of radiolabeled ddNTPs can be achieved through scintillation-based techniques. The detection of fluorescein-linked ddNTPs can

10   be based on the binding of antifluorescein antibody conjugated with alkaline phosphatase, followed by incubation with a chromogenic substrate (such as p-nitrophenyl phosphate). Other possible reporter-detection pairs include: ddNTP linked to dinitrophenyl (DNP) and anti-DNP alkaline phosphatase conjugate (Harju et al., 1993) or biotinylated ddNTP and horseradish peroxidase-conjugated streptavidin with o-phenylenediamine as a substrate (WO 92/15712). As yet another

15   alternative solid-phase microsequencing procedure, Nyren et al.(1993) described a method relying on the detection of DNA polymerase activity by an enzymatic luminometric inorganic pyrophosphate detection assay (ELIDA).

        Pastinen et al.(1997) describe a method for multiplex detection of single nucleotide polymorphism in which the solid phase minisequencing principle is applied to an oligonucleotide

20   array format. High-density arrays of DNA probes attached to a solid support (DNA chips) are further described below.

        In one aspect the present invention provides polynucleotides and methods to genotype one or more biallelic markers of the present invention by performing a microsequencing assay. Preferred microsequencing primers include the nucleotide sequences D1 to D15 and E1 to E15. It

25   will be appreciated that the microsequencing primers listed in Example 5 are merely exemplary and that, any primer having a 3' end immediately adjacent to the polymorphic nucleotide may be used. Similarly, it will be appreciated that microsequencing analysis may be performed for any biallelic marker or any combination of biallelic markers of the present invention. One aspect of the present invention is a solid support which includes one or more microsequencing primers listed in Example

30   5, or fragments comprising at least 8, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, or 50 consecutive nucleotides thereof, to the extent that such lengths are consistent with the primer described, and having a 3' terminus immediately upstream of the corresponding biallelic marker, for determining the identity of a nucleotide at a biallelic marker site.

3) Mismatch detection assays based on polymerases and ligases

35   In one aspect the present invention provides polynucleotides and methods to determine the allele of one or more biallelic markers of the present invention in a biological sample, by mismatch

detection assays based on polymerases and/or ligases. These assays are based on the specificity of polymerases and ligases. Polymerization reactions places particularly stringent requirements on correct base pairing of the 3' end of the amplification primer and the joining of two oligonucleotides hybridized to a target DNA sequence is quite sensitive to mismatches close to the

5   ligation site, especially at the 3' end. Methods, primers and various parameters to amplify DNA fragments comprising biallelic markers of the present invention are further described above in "Amplification Of DNA Fragments Comprising Biallelic Markers".

Allele Specific Amplification Primers

Discrimination between the two alleles of a biallelic marker can also be achieved by allele

10   specific amplification, a selective strategy, whereby one of the alleles is amplified without amplification of the other allele. For allele specific amplification, at least one member of the pair of primers is sufficiently complementary with a region of a *TBC-1* gene comprising the polymorphic base of a biallelic marker of the present invention to hybridize therewith and to initiate the amplification. Such primers are able to discriminate between the two alleles of a biallelic marker.

15   This is accomplished by placing the polymorphic base at the 3' end of one of the amplification primers. Because the extension forms from the 3'end of the primer, a mismatch at or near this position has an inhibitory effect on amplification. Therefore, under appropriate amplification conditions, these primers only direct amplification on their complementary allele. Determining the precise location of the mismatch and the corresponding assay conditions are well

20   within the ordinary skill in the art.

Ligation/Amplification Based Methods

The "Oligonucleotide Ligation Assay" (OLA) uses two oligonucleotides which are designed to be capable of hybridizing to abutting sequences of a single strand of a target molecules. One of the oligonucleotides is biotinylated, and the other is detectably labeled. If the precise

25   complementary sequence is found in a target molecule, the oligonucleotides will hybridize such that their termini abut, and create a ligation substrate that can be captured and detected. OLA is capable of detecting single nucleotide polymorphisms and may be advantageously combined with PCR as described by Nickerson et al.(1990). In this method, PCR is used to achieve the exponential amplification of target DNA, which is then detected using OLA.

30   Other amplification methods which are particularly suited for the detection of single nucleotide polymorphism include LCR (ligase chain reaction), Gap LCR (GLCR) which are described above in "DNA Amplification". LCR uses two pairs of probes to exponentially amplify a specific target. The sequences of each pair of oligonucleotides, is selected to permit the pair to hybridize to abutting sequences of the same strand of the target. Such hybridization forms a

35   substrate for a template-dependant ligase. In accordance with the present invention, LCR can be performed with oligonucleotides having the proximal and distal sequences of the same strand of a biallelic marker site. In one embodiment, either oligonucleotide will be designed to include the

biallelic marker site. In such an embodiment, the reaction conditions are selected such that the oligonucleotides can be ligated together only if the target molecule either contains or lacks the specific nucleotide that is complementary to the biallelic marker on the oligonucleotide. In an alternative embodiment, the oligonucleotides will not include the biallelic marker, such that when

5   they hybridize to the target molecule, a "gap" is created as described in WO 90/01069. This gap is then "filled" with complementary dNTPs (as mediated by DNA polymerase), or by an additional pair of oligonucleotides. Thus at the end of each cycle, each single strand has a complement capable of serving as a target during the next cycle and exponential allele-specific amplification of the desired sequence is obtained.

10   Ligase/Polymerase-mediated Genetic Bit Analysis™ is another method for determining the identity of a nucleotide at a preselected site in a nucleic acid molecule (WO 95/21271). This method involves the incorporation of a nucleoside triphosphate that is complementary to the nucleotide present at the preselected site onto the terminus of a primer molecule, and their subsequent ligation to a second oligonucleotide. The reaction is monitored by detecting a specific

15   label attached to the reaction's solid phase or by detection in solution.

4) Hybridization Assay Methods

A preferred method of determining the identity of the nucleotide present at a biallelic marker site involves nucleic acid hybridization. The hybridization probes, which can be conveniently used in such reactions, preferably include the probes defined herein. Any

20   hybridization assay may be used including Southern hybridization, Northern hybridization, dot blot hybridization and solid-phase hybridization (see Sambrook et al., 1989).

Hybridization refers to the formation of a duplex structure by two single stranded nucleic acids due to complementary base pairing. Hybridization can occur between exactly complementary nucleic acid strands or between nucleic acid strands that contain minor regions of mismatch.

25   Specific probes can be designed that hybridize to one form of a biallelic marker and not to the other and therefore are able to discriminate between different allelic forms. Allele-specific probes are often used in pairs, one member of a pair showing perfect match to a target sequence containing the original allele and the other showing a perfect match to the target sequence containing the alternative allele. Hybridization conditions should be sufficiently stringent that there is a significant

30   difference in hybridization intensity between alleles, and preferably an essentially binary response, whereby a probe hybridizes to only one of the alleles. Stringent, sequence specific hybridization conditions, under which a probe will hybridize only to the exactly complementary target sequence are well known in the art (Sambrook et al., 1989). Stringent conditions are sequence dependent and will be different in different circumstances. Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about

35   5°C lower than the thermal melting point (Tm) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength and pH. Although such hybridization can be performed in solution, it is preferred to employ a

solid-phase hybridization assay. The target DNA comprising a biallelic marker of the present

invention may be amplified prior to the hybridization reaction. The presence of a specific allele in

the sample is determined by detecting the presence or the absence of stable hybrid duplexes formed

between the probe and the target DNA. The detection of hybrid duplexes can be carried out by a

5   number of methods. Various detection assay formats are well known which utilize detectable labels

bound to either the target or the probe to enable detection of the hybrid duplexes. Typically,

hybridization duplexes are separated from unhybridized nucleic acids and the labels bound to the

duplexes are then detected. Those skilled in the art will recognize that wash steps may be employed

to wash away excess target DNA or probe as well as unbound conjugate. Further, standard

10 heterogeneous assay formats are suitable for detecting the hybrids using the labels present on the

primers and probes.

Two recently developed assays allow hybridization-based allele discrimination with no

need for separations or washes (see Landegren U. et al., 1998). The TaqMan assay takes advantage

of the 5' nuclease activity of Taq DNA polymerase to digest a DNA probe annealed specifically to

15 the accumulating amplification product. TaqMan probes are labeled with a donor-acceptor dye pair

that interacts via fluorescence energy transfer. Cleavage of the TaqMan probe by the advancing

polymerase during amplification dissociates the donor dye from the quenching acceptor dye, greatly

increasing the donor fluorescence. All reagents necessary to detect two allelic variants can be

assembled at the beginning of the reaction and the results are monitored in real time (see Livak et

20 al., 1995). In an alternative homogeneous hybridization based procedure, molecular beacons are

used for allele discriminations. Molecular beacons are hairpin-shaped oligonucleotide probes that

report the presence of specific nucleic acids in homogeneous solutions. When they bind to their

targets they undergo a conformational reorganization that restores the fluorescence of an internally

quenched fluorophore (Tyagi et al., 1998).

25   The polynucleotides provided herein can be used to produce probes which can be used in

hybridization assays for the detection of biallelic marker alleles in biological samples. These probes

are characterized in that they preferably comprise between 8 and 50 nucleotides, and in that they are

sufficiently complementary to a sequence comprising a biallelic marker of the present invention to

hybridize thereto and preferably sufficiently specific to be able to discriminate the targeted

30 sequence for only one nucleotide variation. A particularly preferred probe is 25 nucleotides in

length. Preferably the biallelic marker is within 4 nucleotides of the center of the polynucleotide

probe. In particularly preferred probes, the biallelic marker is at the center of said polynucleotide.

Preferred probes comprise a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of amplicons

listed in Table 1 and the sequences complementary thereto, or a fragment thereof, said fragment

35 comprising at least about 8 consecutive nucleotides, preferably 10, 15, 20, more preferably 25, 30,

40, 47, or 50 consecutive nucleotides and containing a polymorphic base. Preferred probes

comprise a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to

P19 and the sequences complementary thereto. In preferred embodiments the polymorphic base(s) are within 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, nucleotides of the center of the said polynucleotide, more preferably at the center of said polynucleotide.

Preferably the probes of the present invention are labeled or immobilized on a solid support.
5   Labels and solid supports are further described in "Oligonucleotide Probes and Primers". The probes can be non-extendable as described in "Oligonucleotide Probes and Primers".

By assaying the hybridization to an allele specific probe, one can detect the presence or absence of a biallelic marker allele in a given sample. High-Throughput parallel hybridization in array format is specifically encompassed within "hybridization assays" and are described below.

10   **5) Hybridization To Addressable Arrays Of Oligonucleotides**

Hybridization assays based on oligonucleotide arrays rely on the differences in hybridization stability of short oligonucleotides to perfectly matched and mismatched target sequence variants. Efficient access to polymorphism information is obtained through a basic structure comprising high-density arrays of oligonucleotide probes attached to a solid support (e.g.,
15   the chip) at selected positions. Each DNA chip can contain thousands to millions of individual synthetic DNA probes arranged in a grid-like pattern and miniaturized to the size of a dime.

The chip technology has already been applied with success in numerous cases. For example, the screening of mutations has been undertaken in the BRCA1 gene, in *S. cerevisiae* mutant strains, and in the protease gene of HIV-1 virus (Hacia et al., 1996; Shoemaker et al., 1996;
20   Kozal et al., 1996). Chips of various formats for use in detecting biallelic polymorphisms can be produced on a customized basis by Affymetrix (GeneChip™), Hyseq (HyChip and HyGnostics), and Protogene Laboratories.

In general, these methods employ arrays of oligonucleotide probes that are complementary to target nucleic acid sequence segments from an individual which, target sequences include a
25   polymorphic marker. EP 785280 describes a tiling strategy for the detection of single nucleotide polymorphisms. Briefly, arrays may generally be "tiled" for a large number of specific polymorphisms. By "tiling" is generally meant the synthesis of a defined set of oligonucleotide probes which is made up of a sequence complementary to the target sequence of interest, as well as preselected variations of that sequence, e.g., substitution of one or more given positions with one or
30   more members of the basis set of nucleotides. Tiling strategies are further described in PCT application No. WO 95/11995. In a particular aspect, arrays are tiled for a number of specific, identified biallelic marker sequences. In particular, the array is tiled to include a number of detection blocks, each detection block being specific for a specific biallelic marker or a set of biallelic markers. For example, a detection block may be tiled to include a number of probes, which
35   span the sequence segment that includes a specific polymorphism. To ensure probes that are complementary to each allele, the probes are synthesized in pairs differing at the biallelic marker.

In addition to the probes differing at the polymorphic base, monosubstituted probes are also generally tiled within the detection block. These monosubstituted probes have bases at and up to a certain number of bases in either direction from the polymorphism, substituted with the remaining nucleotides (selected from A, T, G, C and U). Typically the probes in a tiled detection block will

5   include substitutions of the sequence positions up to and including those that are 5 bases away from the biallelic marker. The monosubstituted probes provide internal controls for the tiled array, to distinguish actual hybridization from artefactual cross-hybridization. Upon completion of hybridization with the target sequence and washing of the array, the array is scanned to determine the position on the array to which the target sequence hybridizes. The hybridization data from the

10 scanned array is then analyzed to identify which allele or alleles of the biallelic marker are present in the sample. Hybridization and scanning may be carried out as described in PCT application No. WO 92/10092 and WO 95/11995 and US patent No. 5,424,186.

Thus, in some embodiments, the chips may comprise an array of nucleic acid sequences of fragments of about 15 nucleotides in length. In further embodiments, the chip may comprise an

15 array including at least one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of amplicons listed in table 1 and the sequences complementary thereto, or a fragment thereof, said fragment comprising at least about 8 consecutive nucleotides, preferably 10, 15, 20, more preferably 25, 30, 40, 47, or 50 consecutive nucleotides and containing a polymorphic base. In preferred embodiments the polymorphic base is within 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, nucleotides of the center of the said

20 polynucleotide, more preferably at the center of said polynucleotide. In some embodiments, the chip may comprise an array of at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or more of these polynucleotides of the invention. Solid supports and polynucleotides of the present invention attached to solid supports are further described in "Oligonucleotide Probes And Primers".

6) Integrated Systems

25   Another technique, which may be used to analyze polymorphisms, includes multicomponent integrated systems, which miniaturize and compartmentalize processes such as PCR and capillary electrophoresis reactions in a single functional device. An example of such technique is disclosed in US patent 5,589,136, which describes the integration of PCR amplification and capillary electrophoresis in chips.

30   Integrated systems can be envisaged mainly when microfluidic systems are used. These systems comprise a pattern of microchannels designed onto a glass, silicon, quartz, or plastic wafer included on a microchip. The movements of the samples are controlled by electric, electroosmotic or hydrostatic forces applied across different areas of the microchip to create functional microscopic valves and pumps with no moving parts.

For genotyping biallelic markers, the microfluidic system may integrate nucleic acid amplification, microsequencing, capillary electrophoresis and a detection method such as laser-induced fluorescence detection.

Association Studies With The Biallelic Markers Of The *TBC-1* Gene

5   The identification of genes involved in suspected heterogeneous, polygenic and multifactorial traits such as cancer can be carried out through two main strategies currently used for genetic mapping: linkage analysis and association studies. Association studies examine the frequency of marker alleles in unrelated trait positive (T+) individuals compared with trait negative (T-) controls, and are generally employed in the detection of polygenic inheritance. Association

10   studies as a method of mapping genetic traits rely on the phenomenon of linkage disequilibrium.

        If two genetic loci lie on the same chromosome, then sets of alleles of these loci on the same chromosomal segment (called haplotypes) tend to be transmitted as a block from generation to generation. When not broken up by recombination, haplotypes can be tracked not only through pedigrees but also through populations. The resulting phenomenon at the population level is that the

15   occurrence of pairs of specific alleles at different loci on the same chromosome is not random, and the deviation from random is called linkage disequilibrium (LD).

        If a specific allele in a given gene is directly involved in causing a particular trait T, its frequency will be statistically increased in a trait positive population when compared to the frequency in a trait negative population. As a consequence of the existence of linkage

20   disequilibrium, the frequency of all other alleles present in the haplotype carrying the trait-causing allele (TCA) will also be increased in trait positive individuals compared to trait negative individuals. Therefore, association between the trait and any allele in linkage disequilibrium with the trait-causing allele will suffice to suggest the presence of a trait-related gene in that particular allele's region. Linkage disequilibrium allows the relative frequencies in trait positive and trait

25   negative populations of a limited number of genetic polymorphisms (specifically biallelic markers) to be analyzed as an alternative to screening all possible functional polymorphisms in order to find trait-causing alleles.

        The general strategy to perform association studies using biallelic markers derived from a candidate region is to scan two groups of individuals (trait positive and trait negative control

30   individuals which are characterized by a well defined phenotype as described below) in order to measure and statistically compare the allele frequencies of such biallelic markers in both groups.

        If a statistically significant association with a trait is identified for at least one or more of the analyzed biallelic markers, one can assume that : either the associated allele is directly responsible for causing the trait (associated allele is the trait-causing allele), or the associated allele

35   is in linkage disequilibrium with the trait-causing allele. If the evidence indicates that the associated allele within the candidate region is most probably not the trait-causing allele but is in linkage

disequilibrium with the real trait-causing allele, then the trait-causing allele, and by consequence the gene carrying the trait-causing allele, can be found by sequencing the vicinity of the associated marker.

Collection of DNA samples from trait positive (trait +) and trait negative (trait –individuals
5   **(inclusion criteria)**

In order to perform efficient and significant association studies such as those described herein, the trait under study should preferably follow a bimodal distribution in the population under study, presenting two clear non-overlapping phenotypes, trait positive and trait negative.

Nevertheless, even in the absence of such a bimodal distribution (as may in fact be the case
10 for more complex genetic traits), any genetic trait may still be analyzed by the association method proposed here by carefully selecting the individuals to be included in the trait positive and trait negative phenotypic groups. The selection procedure involves to select individuals at opposite ends of the non-bimodal phenotype spectra of the trait under study, so as to include in these trait positive and trait negative populations individuals which clearly represent extreme, preferably non-
15 overlapping phenotypes.

The definition of the inclusion criteria for the trait positive and trait negative populations is an important aspect of the present invention. The selection of drastically different but relatively uniform phenotypes enables efficient comparisons in association studies and the possible detection of marked differences at the genetic level, provided that the sample sizes of the populations under
20 study are significant enough.

Generally, trait positive and trait negative populations to be included in association studies such as proposed in the present invention consist of phenotypically homogenous populations of individuals each representing 100% of the corresponding trait if the trait distribution is bimodal.

A first group of between 50 and 300 trait positive individuals, preferably about 100
25 individuals, can be recruited according to clinical inclusion criteria.

In each case, a similar number of trait negative individuals, preferably more than 100 individuals, are included in such studies who are preferably both ethnically- and age-matched to the trait positive cases. They are checked for the absence of the clinical criteria defined above. Both trait positive and trait negative individuals should correspond to unrelated cases.

30 **Genotyping of trait positive and trait negative individuals**

Allelic frequencies of the biallelic markers in each of the above described population can be determined using one of the methods described above under the heading "Methods of Genotyping DNA samples for biallelic markers". Analyses are preferably performed on amplified fragments obtained by genomic PCR performed on the DNA samples from each individual in similar
35 conditions as those described above for the generation of biallelic markers.

In a preferred embodiment, amplified DNA samples are subjected to automated microsequencing reactions using fluorescent ddNTPs (specific fluorescence for each ddNTP) and

the appropriate microsequencing oligonucleotides which hybridize just upstream of the polymorphic base.

Genotyping is further described in Example 5.

Associations studies can be carried out by the skilled technician using the biallelic markers

5   of the invention defined above, with different trait positive and trait negative populations. Suitable examples of association studies using biallelic markers of the *TBC-1* gene, including the biallelic markers A1 to A19, involve studies on the following populations:

- a trait positive population suffering from a cancer, preferably prostate cancer and a healthy unaffected population; or

10   - a trait positive population suffering from prostate cancer treated with agents acting against prostate cancer and suffering from side-effects resulting from this treatment and an trait negative population suffering from prostate cancer treated with same agents without any substantial side-effects, or

- a trait positive population suffering from prostate cancer treated with agents acting against

15   prostate cancer showing a beneficial response and a trait negative population suffering from prostate cancer treated with same agents without any beneficial response, or

- a trait positive population suffering from prostate cancer presenting highly aggressive prostate cancer tumors and a trait negative population suffering from prostate cancer with prostate cancer tumors devoid of aggressiveness.

20   It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for the identification and characterization of an association between an allele of one or more biallelic markers of a *TBC-1* gene and a trait. The method comprises the steps of :

- genotyping a marker or a group of biallelic markers according to the invention in trait positive;

25   - genotyping a marker or a group of biallelic markers according to the invention in and trait negative individuals; and

- establishing a statistically significant association between one allele of at least one marker and the trait.

Preferably, the trait positive and trait negative individuals are selected from non-

30   overlapping phenotypes as regards to the trait under study. In one embodiment, the biallelic marker are selected from the group consisting of the biallelic markers A1 to A19.

In a preferred embodiment, the trait is cancer, prostate cancer, an early onset of prostate cancer, a susceptibility to prostate cancer, the level of aggressiveness of prostate cancer tumors, a modified expression of the *TBC-1* gene, a modified production of the TBC-1 protein, or the

35   production of a modified TBC-1 protein.

In a further embodiment, the trait negative population can be replaced in the association studies by a random control population.

The step of testing for and detecting the presence of DNA comprising specific alleles of a biallelic marker or a group of biallelic markers of the present invention can be carried out as described further below.

Oligonucleotide Probes And Primers

5   The invention relates also to oligonucleotide molecules useful as probes or primers, wherein said oligonucleotide molecules hybridize specifically with a nucleotide sequence comprised in the *TBC-1* gene, particularly the *TBC-1* genomic sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 or the *TBC-1* cDNAs sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4. More particularly, the present invention also concerns oligonucleotides for the detection of alleles of biallelic markers of the *TBC-1* gene. These

10   oligonucleotides are useful either as primers for use in various processes such as DNA amplification and microsequencing or as probes for DNA recognition in hybridization analyses. Polynucleotides derived from the *TBC-1* gene are useful in order to detect the presence of at least a copy of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID Nos 1-4, or a fragment, complement, or variant thereof in a test sample.

15   Particularly preferred probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, or the complements thereof. Additionally preferred probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides

20   comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 1 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 1: 1-1000, 1001-2000, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, 4001-5000, 5001-6000, 6001-7000, 7001-8000, 8001-9000, 9001-10000, 10001-11000, 11001-12000, 12001-13000, 13001-14000, 14001-15000,

25   15001-16000, 16001-17000, and 17001-17590. Other preferred probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 2 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID No 2: 1-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-15000, 15001-

30   20000, 20001-25000, 25001-30000, 30001-35000, 35001-40000, 40001-45000, 45001-50000, 50001-55000, 55001-60000, 60001-65000, 65001-70000, 70001-75000, 75001-80000, 80001-85000, 85001-90000, 90001-95000, and 95001-99960.

Moreover, preferred probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40,

35   50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4, or the complements thereof.. Particularly preferred

probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 3 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the following nucleotide positions of SEQ ID

5   No 3: 1-500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, 2001-2500, 2501-3000, 3001-3500, and 3501-3983. Additional preferred probes and primers of the invention include isolated, purified, or recombinant polynucleotides comprising a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 500, or 1000 nucleotides of SEQ ID No 4 or the complements thereof, wherein said contiguous span comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 of the following nucleotide

10   positions of SEQ ID No 4: 1-500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, 2001-2500, 2501-3000, 3001-3500, and 3501-3988.

Thus, the invention also relates to nucleic acid probes characterized in that they hybridize specifically, under the stringent hybridization conditions defined above, with a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1-4 or a variant thereof or a

15   sequence complementary thereto.

In one embodiment the invention encompasses isolated, purified, and recombinant polynucleotides consisting of, or consisting essentially of a contiguous span of 8 to 50 nucleotides of any one of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 and the complement thereof, wherein said span includes a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker in said sequence; optionally, wherein said *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker

20   is selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19, and the complements thereof, or optionally the biallelic markers in linkage disequilibrium therewith; optionally, wherein said contiguous span is 18 to 35 nucleotides in length and said biallelic marker is within 4 nucleotides of the center of said polynucleotide; optionally, wherein said polynucleotide consists of said contiguous span and said contiguous span is 25 nucleotides in length and said biallelic marker is at the center of said

25   polynucleotide; optionally, wherein the 3' end of said contiguous span is present at the 3' end of said polynucleotide; and optionally, wherein the 3' end of said contiguous span is located at the 3' end of said polynucleotide and said biallelic marker is present at the 3' end of said polynucleotide. In a preferred embodiment, said probes comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of a sequence selected from the following sequences: P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19 and the complementary

30   sequences thereto.

In another embodiment the invention encompasses isolated, purified and recombinant polynucleotides comprising, consisting of, or consisting essentially of a contiguous span of 8 to 50 nucleotides of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, or the complements thereof, wherein the 3' end of said contiguous span is located at the 3' end of said polynucleotide, and wherein the 3' end of said

35   polynucleotide is located within 20 nucleotides upstream of a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker in said sequence; optionally, wherein said *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker is selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19, and the complements thereof, or optionally the biallelic markers in linkage

disequilibrium therewith; optionally, wherein the 3' end of said polynucleotide is located 1

nucleotide upstream of said *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker in said sequence; and optionally,

wherein said polynucleotide consists essentially of a sequence selected from the following

sequences: D1 to D19 and E1 to E19.

5   In a further embodiment, the invention encompasses isolated, purified, or recombinant

polynucleotides comprising, consisting of, or consisting essentially of a sequence selected from the

following sequences: B1 to B15 and C1 to C15.

           In an additional embodiment, the invention encompasses polynucleotides for use in

hybridization assays, sequencing assays, and enzyme-based mismatch detection assays for

10   determining the identity of the nucleotide at a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker in SEQ ID Nos 1 and

2, or the complements thereof, as well as polynucleotides for use in amplifying segments of

nucleotides comprising a *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker in SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, or the

complements thereof; optionally, wherein said *TBC-1*-related biallelic marker is selected from the

group consisting of A1 to A19, and the complements thereof, or optionally the biallelic markers in

15   linkage disequilibrium therewith.

           A probe or a primer according to the invention has between 8 and 1000 nucleotides in

length, or is specified to be at least 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 100, 250, 500 or 1000

nucleotides in length. More particularly, the length of these probes and primers can range from 8,

10, 15, 20, or 30 to 100 nucleotides, preferably from 10 to 50, more preferably from 15 to 30

20   nucleotides. Shorter probes and primers tend to lack specificity for a target nucleic acid sequence

and generally require cooler temperatures to form sufficiently stable hybrid complexes with the

template. Longer probes and primers are expensive to produce and can sometimes self-hybridize to

form hairpin structures. The appropriate length for primers and probes under a particular set of

assay conditions may be empirically determined by one of skill in the art. A preferred probe or

25   primer consists of a nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group of the

nucleotide sequences of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19 and the complementary sequence thereto,

B1 to B15, C1 to C15, D1 to D19, E1 to E19, for which the respective locations in the sequence

listing are provided in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

           The formation of stable hybrids depends on the melting temperature (Tm) of the DNA. The

30   Tm depends on the length of the primer or probe, the ionic strength of the solution and the G+C

content. The higher the G+C content of the primer or probe, the higher is the melting temperature

because G:C pairs are held by three H bonds whereas A:T pairs have only two. The GC content in

the probes of the invention usually ranges between 10 and 75 %, preferably between 35 and 60 %,

and more preferably between 40 and 55 %.

35   The primers and probes can be prepared by any suitable method, including, for example,

cloning and restriction of appropriate sequences and direct chemical synthesis by a method such as

the phosphodiester method of Narang et al.(1979), the phosphodiester method of Brown et

al.(1979), the diethylphosphoramidite method of Beaucage et al.(1981) and the solid support method described in EP 0 707 592.

Detection probes are generally nucleic acid sequences or uncharged nucleic acid analogs such as, for example peptide nucleic acids which are disclosed in International Patent Application
5   WO 92/20702, morpholino analogs which are described in U.S. Patents Numbered 5,185,444; 5,034,506 and 5,142,047. The probe may have to be rendered "non-extendable" in that additional dNTPs cannot be added to the probe. In and of themselves analogs usually are non-extendable and nucleic acid probes can be rendered non-extendable by modifying the 3' end of the probe such that the hydroxyl group is no longer capable of participating in elongation. For example, the 3' end of
10   the probe can be functionalized with the capture or detection label to thereby consume or otherwise block the hydroxyl group. Alternatively, the 3' hydroxyl group simply can be cleaved, replaced or modified, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/049,061 filed April 19, 1993 describes modifications, which can be used to render a probe non-extendable.

Any of the polynucleotides of the present invention can be labeled, if desired, by
15   incorporating any label known in the art to be detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, or chemical means. For example, useful labels include radioactive substances (including, ^{32}P, ^{35}S, ^{3}H, ^{125}I), fluorescent dyes (including, 5-bromodesoxyuridin, fluorescein, acetylaminofluorene, digoxigenin) or biotin. Preferably, polynucleotides are labeled at their 3' and 5' ends. Examples of non-radioactive labeling of nucleic acid fragments are described
20   in the French patent No. FR-7810975 or by Urdea et al (1988) or Sanchez-Pescador et al (1988). In addition, the probes according to the present invention may have structural characteristics such that they allow the signal amplification, such structural characteristics being, for example, branched DNA probes as those described by Urdea et al. in 1991 or in the European patent No. EP 0 225 807 (Chiron).

25   A label can also be used to capture the primer, so as to facilitate the immobilization of either the primer or a primer extension product, such as amplified DNA, on a solid support. A capture label is attached to the primers or probes and can be a specific binding member which forms a binding pair with the solid's phase reagent's specific binding member (e.g. biotin and streptavidin). Therefore depending upon the type of label carried by a polynucleotide or a probe, it
30   may be employed to capture or to detect the target DNA. Further, it will be understood that the polynucleotides, primers or probes provided herein, may, themselves, serve as the capture label. For example, in the case where a solid phase reagent's binding member is a nucleic acid sequence, it may be selected such that it binds a complementary portion of a primer or probe to thereby immobilize the primer or probe to the solid phase. In cases where a polynucleotide probe itself
35   serves as the binding member, those skilled in the art will recognize that the probe will contain a sequence or "tail" that is not complementary to the target. In the case where a polynucleotide

primer itself serves as the capture label, at least a portion of the primer will be free to hybridize with a nucleic acid on a solid phase. DNA Labeling techniques are well known to the skilled technician.

The probes of the present invention are useful for a number of purposes. They can be notably used in Southern hybridization to genomic DNA. The probes can also be used to detect 5 PCR amplification products. They may also be used to detect mismatches in the *TBC-1* gene or mRNA using other techniques.

Any of the polynucleotides, primers and probes of the present invention can be conveniently immobilized on a solid support. Solid supports are known to those skilled in the art and include the walls of wells of a reaction tray, test tubes, polystyrene beads, magnetic beads, 10 nitrocellulose strips, membranes, microparticles such as latex particles, sheep (or other animal) red blood cells, duracytes and others. The solid support is not critical and can be selected by one skilled in the art. Thus, latex particles, microparticles, magnetic or non-magnetic beads, membranes, plastic tubes, walls of microtiter wells, glass or silicon chips, sheep (or other suitable animal's) red blood cells and duracytes are all suitable examples. Suitable methods for immobilizing nucleic 15 acids on solid phases include ionic, hydrophobic, covalent interactions and the like. A solid support, as used herein, refers to any material which is insoluble, or can be made insoluble by a subsequent reaction. The solid support can be chosen for its intrinsic ability to attract and immobilize the capture reagent. Alternatively, the solid phase can retain an additional receptor which has the ability to attract and immobilize the capture reagent. The additional receptor can 20 include a charged substance that is oppositely charged with respect to the capture reagent itself or to a charged substance conjugated to the capture reagent. As yet another alternative, the receptor molecule can be any specific binding member which is immobilized upon (attached to) the solid support and which has the ability to immobilize the capture reagent through a specific binding reaction. The receptor molecule enables the indirect binding of the capture reagent to a solid 25 support material before the performance of the assay or during the performance of the assay. The solid phase thus can be a plastic, derivatized plastic, magnetic or non-magnetic metal, glass or silicon surface of a test tube, microtiter well, sheet, bead, microparticle, chip, sheep (or other suitable animal's) red blood cells, duracytes® and other configurations known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The polynucleotides of the invention can be attached to or immobilized on a solid 30 support individually or in groups of at least 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20, or 25 distinct polynucleotides of the invention to a single solid support. In addition, polynucleotides other than those of the invention may be attached to the same solid support as one or more polynucleotides of the invention.

Consequently, the invention also deals with a method for detecting the presence of a nucleic 35 acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1-4, a fragment or a variant thereof and a complementary sequence thereto in a sample, said method comprising the following steps of:

a) bringing into contact a nucleic acid probe or a plurality of nucleic acid probes which can hybridize with a nucleotide sequence included in a nucleic acid selected form the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1-4, a fragment or a variant thereof and a complementary sequence thereto and the sample to be assayed; and

5   b) detecting the hybrid complex formed between the probe and a nucleic acid in the sample.

The invention further concerns a kit for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 1-4, a fragment or a variant thereof and a complementary sequence thereto in a sample, said kit comprising:

a) a nucleic acid probe or a plurality of nucleic acid probes which can hybridize with a

10   nucleotide sequence included in a nucleic acid selected form the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1-4, a fragment or a variant thereof and a complementary sequence thereto; and

b) optionally, the reagents necessary for performing the hybridization reaction.

In a first preferred embodiment of this detection method and kit, said nucleic acid probe or

15   the plurality of nucleic acid probes are labeled with a detectable molecule. In a second preferred embodiment of said method and kit, said nucleic acid probe or the plurality of nucleic acid probes has been immobilized on a substrate. In a third preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid probe or the plurality of nucleic acid probes comprise either a sequence which is selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19 and the complementary

20   sequence thereto, B1 to B15, C1 to C15, D1 to D19, E1 to E19 or a biallelic marker selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19 and the complements thereto.

Oligonucleotide Arrays

A substrate comprising a plurality of oligonucleotide primers or probes of the invention may be used either for detecting or amplifying targeted sequences in the *TBC-1* gene and may also

25   be used for detecting mutations in the coding or in the non-coding sequences of the *TBC-1* gene.

Any polynucleotide provided herein may be attached in overlapping areas or at random locations on the solid support. Alternatively the polynucleotides of the invention may be attached in an ordered array wherein each polynucleotide is attached to a distinct region of the solid support which does not overlap with the attachment site of any other polynucleotide. Preferably, such an

30   ordered array of polynucleotides is designed to be "addressable" where the distinct locations are recorded and can be accessed as part of an assay procedure. Addressable polynucleotide arrays typically comprise a plurality of different oligonucleotide probes that are coupled to a surface of a substrate in different known locations. The knowledge of the precise location of each polynucleotides location makes these "addressable" arrays particularly useful in hybridization

35   assays. Any addressable array technology known in the art can be employed with the polynucleotides of the invention. One particular embodiment of these polynucleotide arrays is known as the Genechips™, and has been generally described in US Patent 5,143,854; PCT

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publications WO 90/15070 and 92/10092. These arrays may generally be produced using mechanical synthesis methods or light directed synthesis methods which incorporate a combination of photolithographic methods and solid phase oligonucleotide synthesis (Fodor et al., 1991). The immobilization of arrays of oligonucleotides on solid supports has been rendered possible by the

5   development of a technology generally identified as "Very Large Scale Immobilized Polymer Synthesis" (VLSIPS™) in which, typically, probes are immobilized in a high density array on a solid surface of a chip. Examples of VLSIPS™ technologies are provided in US Patents 5,143,854; and 5,412,087 and in PCT Publications WO 90/15070, WO 92/10092 and WO 95/11995, which describe methods for forming oligonucleotide arrays through techniques such as light-directed

10   synthesis techniques. In designing strategies aimed at providing arrays of nucleotides immobilized on solid supports, further presentation strategies were developed to order and display the oligonucleotide arrays on the chips in an attempt to maximize hybridization patterns and sequence information. Examples of such presentation strategies are disclosed in PCT Publications WO 94/12305, WO 94/11530, WO 97/29212 and WO 97/31256.

15   In another embodiment of the oligonucleotide arrays of the invention, an oligonucleotide probe matrix may advantageously be used to detect mutations occurring in the *TBC-1* gene and preferably in its regulatory region. For this particular purpose, probes are specifically designed to have a nucleotide sequence allowing their hybridization to the genes that carry known mutations (either by deletion, insertion or substitution of one or several nucleotides). By known mutations, it

20   is meant, mutations on the *TBC-1* gene that have been identified according, for example to the technique used by Huang et al.(1996) or Samson et al.(1996).

             Another technique that is used to detect mutations in the *TBC-1* gene is the use of a high-density DNA array. Each oligonucleotide probe constituting a unit element of the high density DNA array is designed to match a specific subsequence of the *TBC-1* genomic DNA or cDNA.

25   Thus, an array consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to subsequences of the target gene sequence is used to determine the identity of the target sequence with the wild gene sequence, measure its amount, and detect differences between the target sequence and the reference wild gene sequence of the *TBC-1* gene. In one such design, termed 4L tiled array, is implemented a set of four probes (A, C, G, T), preferably 15-nucleotide oligomers. In each set of four probes, the perfect

30   complement will hybridize more strongly than mismatched probes. Consequently, a nucleic acid target of length L is scanned for mutations with a tiled array containing 4L probes, the whole probe set containing all the possible mutations in the known wild reference sequence. The hybridization signals of the 15-mer probe set tiled array are perturbed by a single base change in the target sequence. As a consequence, there is a characteristic loss of signal or a "footprint" for the probes

35   flanking a mutation position. This technique was described by Chee et al. in 1996.

             Consequently, the invention concerns an array of nucleic acid molecules comprising at least one polynucleotide described above as probes and primers. Preferably, the invention concerns an

array of nucleic acid comprising at least two polynucleotides described above as probes and primers.

A further object of the invention consists of an array of nucleic acid sequences comprising either at least one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to
5 P19, B1 to B15, C1 to C15, D1 to D19, E1 to E19, the sequences complementary thereto, a fragment thereof of at least 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, or 40 consecutive nucleotides thereof, and at least one sequence comprising a biallelic marker selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19 and the complements thereto.

The invention also pertains to an array of nucleic acid sequences comprising either at least
10 two of the sequences selected from the group consisting of P1 to P7, P9 to P13, P15 to P19, B1 to B15, C1 to C15, D1 to D19, E1 to E19, the sequences complementary thereto, a fragment thereof of at least 8 consecutive nucleotides thereof, and at least two sequences comprising a biallelic marker selected from the group consisting of A1 to A19 and the complements thereof.

Vectors For The Expression Of A Regulatory Or A Coding Polynucleotide Of *TBC-1*.

15   Any of the regulatory polynucleotides or the coding polynucleotides of the invention may be inserted into recombinant vectors for expression in a recombinant host cell or a recombinant host organism.

Thus, the present invention also encompasses a family of recombinant vectors that contains either a regulatory polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of any one of the regulatory
20 polynucleotides derived from the *TBC-1* genomic sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2, or a polynucleotide comprising the *TBC-1* coding sequence, or both.

In a first preferred embodiment, a recombinant vector of the invention is used as an expression vector : (a) the *TBC-1* regulatory sequence comprised therein drives the expression of a coding polynucleotide operably linked thereto; (b) the *TBC-1* coding sequence is operably linked to
25 regulation sequences allowing its expression in a suitable cell host and/or host organism.

In a second preferred embodiment, a recombinant vector of the invention is used to amplify the inserted polynucleotide derived from the *TBC-1* genomic sequences of SEQ ID Nos 1 and 2 or *TBC-1* cDNAs in a suitable cell host , this polynucleotide being amplified at every time that the recombinant vector replicates.

30   More particularly, the present invention relates to expression vectors which include nucleic acids encoding a TBC-1 protein, preferably the TBC-1 protein of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5 described therein, under the control of a regulatory sequence selected among the *TBC-1* regulatory polynucleotides, or alternatively under the control of an exogenous regulatory sequence.

A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group
35 consisting of 5' and 3' regulatory regions, or biologically active fragments or variants thereof, is also part of the present invention.

The invention also encompasses a recombinant expression vector comprising :

a) a nucleic acid comprising the 5' regulatory polynucleotide of the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID No 1, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof;

b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide or a polynucleotide of interest operably linked

5 with said nucleic acid.

c) optionally, a nucleic acid comprising a 3'-regulatory polynucleotide, preferably a 3'-regulatory polynucleotide of the invention, or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof.

The nucleic acid comprising the 5' regulatory polynucleotide or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof may also comprises the 5'-UTR sequence from any of the two cDNA of

10 the invention or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof.

The invention also pertains to a recombinant expression vector useful for the expression of the *TBC-1* coding sequence, wherein said vector comprises a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4 or a nucleic acid having at least 95% nucleotide identity with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3 and

15 4.

Another recombinant expression vector of the invention consists in a recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence beginning at the nucleotide in position 176 and ending in position 3730 of the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No 4.

Generally, a recombinant vector of the invention may comprise any of the polynucleotides

20 described herein, including regulatory sequences, and coding sequences, as well as any *TBC-1* primer or probe as defined above. More particularly, the recombinant vectors of the present invention can comprise any of the polynucleotides described in the "*TBC-1* cDNA Sequences" section, the "Coding Regions" section, "Genomic sequence of *TBC-1*" section and the "Oligonucleotide Probes And Primers" section.

25   Some of the elements which can be found in the vectors of the present invention are described in further detail in the following sections.

a) Vectors

A recombinant vector according to the invention comprises, but is not limited to, a YAC (Yeast Artificial Chromosome), a BAC (Bacterial Artificial Chromosome), a phage, a phagemid, a

30 cosmid, a plasmid or even a linear DNA molecule which may consist of a chromosomal, non-chromosomal and synthetic DNA. Such a recombinant vector can comprise a transcriptional unit comprising an assembly of :

(1) a genetic element or elements having a regulatory role in gene expression, for example promoters or enhancers. Enhancers are cis-acting elements of DNA, usually from about 10 to 300

35 bp in length that act on the promoter to increase the transcription.

(2) a structural or coding sequence which is transcribed into mRNA and eventually translated into a polypeptide, and

(3) appropriate transcription initiation and termination sequences. Structural units intended for use in yeast or eukaryotic expression systems preferably include a leader sequence enabling extracellular secretion of translated protein by a host cell. Alternatively, where a recombinant protein is expressed without a leader or transport sequence, it may include an N-terminal residue.

5   This residue may or may not be subsequently cleaved from the expressed recombinant protein to provide a final product.

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of replication, selectable markers permitting transformation of the host cell, and a promoter derived from a highly expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence. The heterologous structural

10   sequence is assembled in appropriate phase with translation initiation and termination sequences, and preferably a leader sequence capable of directing secretion of the translated protein into the periplasmic space or the extracellular medium.

The selectable marker genes for selection of transformed host cells are preferably dihydrofolate reductase or neomycin resistance for eukaryotic cell culture, TRP1 for *S. cerevisiae* or

15   tetracycline, rifampicin or ampicillin resistance in *E. coli*, or levan saccharase for mycobacteria.

As a representative but non-limiting example, useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and a bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of pBR322 (ATCC 37017). Such commercial vectors include, for example, pKK223-3 (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden), and GEM1 (Promega

20   Biotec, Madison, WI, USA).

Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and commercially available, such as bacterial vectors : pQE70, pQE60, pQE-9 (Qiagen), pbs, pD10, phagescript, psiX174, pbluescript SK, pbsks, pNH8A, pNH16A, pNH18A, pNH46A (Stratagene); ptrc99a, pKK223-3, pKK233-3, pDR540, pRIT5 (Pharmacia); or eukaryotic vectors : pWLNEO,

25   pSV2CAT, pOG44, pXT1, pSG (Stratagene); pSVK3, pBPV, pMSG, pSVL (Pharmacia); baculovirus transfer vector pVL1392/1393 (Pharmingen); pQE-30 (QIAexpress).

A suitable vector for the expression of the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 is a baculovirus vector that can be propagated in insect cells and in insect cell lines. A specific suitable host vector system is the pVL1392/1393 baculovirus transfer vector (Pharmingen) that is used to

30   transfect the SF9 cell line (ATCC N°CRL 1711) which is derived from *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

Other suitable vectors for the expression of the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 in a baculovirus expression system include those described by Chai et al. (1993), Vlasak et al. (1983) and Lenhard et al. (1996).

Mammalian expression vectors will comprise an origin of replication, a suitable promoter

35   and enhancer, and also any necessary ribosome binding sites, polyadenylation site, splice donor and acceptor sites, transcriptional termination sequences, and 5' flanking nontranscribed sequences. DNA sequences derived from the SV40 viral genome, for example SV40 origin, early promoter,

enhancer, splice and polyadenylation sites may be used to provide the required nontranscribed genetic elements.

b) Promoters

The suitable promoter regions used in the expression vectors according to the present

5   invention are chosen taking into account the cell host in which the heterologous gene has to be expressed.

A suitable promoter may be heterologous with respect to the nucleic acid for which it controls the expression or alternatively can be endogenous to the native polynucleotide containing the coding sequence to be expressed. Additionally, the promoter is generally heterologous with

10   respect to the recombinant vector sequences within which the construct promoter/coding sequence has been inserted.

Preferred bacterial promoters are the LacI, LacZ, the T3 or T7 bacteriophage RNA polymerase promoters, the polyhedrin promoter, or the p10 protein promoter from baculovirus (Kit Novagen) (Smith et al., 1983; O'Reilly et al., 1992), the lambda P_R promoter or also the trc

15   promoter.

Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using, for example, CAT (chloramphenicol transferase) vectors and more preferably pKK232-8 and pCM7 vectors. Particularly preferred bacterial promoters include lacI, lacZ, T3, T7, gpt, lambda PR, PL and trp. Eukaryotic promoters include CMV immediate early, HSV thymidine kinase, early and late SV40,

20   LTRs from retrovirus, and mouse metallothionein-L. Selection of a convenient vector and promoter is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

The choice of a promoter is well within the ability of a person skilled in the field of genetic egineering. For example, one may refer to the book of Sambrook et al. (1989) or also to the procedures described by Fuller et al. (1996).

25   The vector containing the appropriate DNA sequence as described above, more preferably a *TBC-1* gene regulatory polynucleotide, a polynucleotide encoding the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 or both of them, can be utilized to transform an appropriate host to allow the expression of the desired polypeptide or polynucleotide.

c) Other types of vectors

30   The *in vivo* expression of a TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 may be useful in order to correct a genetic defect related to the expression of the native gene in a host organism or to the production of a biologically inactive TBC-1 protein.

Consequently, the present invention also deals with recombinant expression vectors mainly designed for the *in vivo* production of the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5 by the introduction

35   of the appropriate genetic material in the organism of the patient to be treated. This genetic material may be introduced *in vitro* in a cell that has been previously extracted from the organism, the

modified cell being subsequently reintroduced in the said organism, directly *in vivo* into the appropriate tissue.

By « vector » according to this specific embodiment of the invention is intended either a circular or a linear DNA molecule.

5   One specific embodiment for a method for delivering a protein or peptide to the interior of a cell of a vertebrate *in vivo* comprises the step of introducing a preparation comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier and a naked polynucleotide operatively coding for the polypeptide of interest into the interstitial space of a tissue comprising the cell, whereby the naked polynucleotide is taken up into the interior of the cell and has a physiological effect.

10   In a specific embodiment, the invention provides a composition for the *in vivo* production of the TBC-1 protein or polypeptide described herein. It comprises a naked polynucleotide operatively coding for this polypeptide, in solution in a physiologically acceptable carrier, and suitable for introduction into a tissue to cause cells of the tissue to express the said protein or polypeptide.

Compositions comprising a polynucleotide are described in PCT application N° WO
15   90/11092 (Vical Inc.) and also in PCT application N° WO 95/11307 (Institut Pasteur, INSERM, Université d'Ottawa) as well as in the articles of Tacson et al. (1996) and of Huygen et al. (1996).

The amount of vector to be injected to the desired host organism varies according to the site of injection. As an indicative dose, it will be injected between 0,1 and 100 µg of the vector in an animal body, preferably a mammal body, for example a mouse body.

20   In another embodiment of the vector according to the invention, it may be introduced in vitro in a host cell, preferably in a host cell previously harvested from the animal to be treated and more preferably a somatic cell such as a muscle cell. In a subsequent step, the cell that has been transformed with the vector coding for the desired TBC-1 polypeptide or the desired fragment thereof is reintroduced into the animal body in order to deliver the recombinant protein within the
25   body either locally or systemically.

In one specific embodiment, the vector is derived from an adenovirus. Preferred adenovirus vectors according to the invention are those described by Feldman and Steg (1996) or Ohno et al. (1994). Another preferred recombinant adenovirus according to this specific embodiment of the present invention is the human adenovirus type 2 or 5 (Ad 2 or Ad 5) or an adenovirus of animal
30   origin (French patent application N° FR-93.05954).

Retrovirus vectors and adeno-associated virus vectors are generally understood to be the recombinant gene delivery systems of choice for the transfer of exogenous polynucleotides *in vivo* , particularly to mammals, including humans. These vectors provide efficient delivery of genes into cells, and the transferred nucleic acids are stably integrated into the chromosomal DNA of the host

35   Particularly preferred retroviruses for the preparation or construction of retroviral *in vitro* or *in vitro* gene delivery vehicles of the present invention include retroviruses selected from the group consisting of Mink-Cell Focus Inducing Virus, Murine Sarcoma Virus, Reticuloendotheliosis virus

and Rous Sarcoma virus. Particularly preferred Murine Leukemia Viruses include the 4070A and the 1504A viruses, Abelson (ATCC No VR-999), Friend (ATCC No VR-245), Gross (ATCC No VR-590), Rauscher (ATCC No VR-998) and Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus (ATCC No VR-190; PCT Application No WO 94/24298). Particularly preferred Rous Sarcoma Viruses include

5 Bryan high titer (ATCC Nos VR-334, VR-657, VR-726, VR-659 and VR-728). Other preferred retroviral vectors are those described in Roth et al. (Roth J.A. et al., 1996), PCT Application No WO 93/25234, PCT Application No WO 94/ 06920, Roux et al., 1989, Julan et al., 1992 and Neda et al., 1991.

Yet another viral vector system that is contemplated by the invention consists in the adeno-

10 associated virus (AAV). The adeno-associated virus is a naturally occurring defective virus that requires another virus, such as an adenovirus or a herpes virus, as a helper virus for efficient replication and a productive life cycle (Muzyczka et al., 1992). It is also one of the few viruses that may integrate its DNA into non-dividing cells, and exhibits a high frequency of stable integration (Flotte et al., 1992; Samulski et al., 1989; McLaughlin et al., 1989). One advantageous feature of

15 AAV derives from its reduced efficacy for transducing primary cells relative to transformed cells.

Other compositions containing a vector of the invention advantageously comprise an oligonucleotide fragment of a nucleic sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 3 or 4 as an antisense tool that inhibits the expression of the corresponding TBC-1 gene. Preferred methods using antisense polynucleotide according to the present invention are the procedures

20 described by Sczakiel et al. (1995) or those described in PCT Application No WO 95/24223.

Host cells

Another object of the invention consists in host cell that have been transformed or transfected with one of the polynucleotides described therein, and more precisely a polynucleotide either comprising a TBC-1 regulatory polynucleotide or the coding sequence of the TBC-1

25 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 5. Are included host cells that are transformed (prokaryotic cells) or that are transfected (eukaryotic cells) with a recombinant vector such as one of those described above.

A recombinant host cell of the invention comprises any one of the polynucleotides or the recombinant vectors described therein. More particularly, the cell hosts of the present invention can

30 comprise any of the polynucleotides described in "TBC-1 cDNA Sequences" section, the "Coding Regions" section, "Genomic sequence of TBC-1 " section and the "Oligonucleotide Probes And Primers" section.

Another preferred recombinant cell host according to the present invention is characterized in that its genome or genetic background (including chromosome, plasmids) is modified by the

35 nucleic acid coding for the TBC-1 polypeptide of SEQ ID No 5.

Preferred host cells used as recipients for the expression vectors of the invention are the following :

    a) Prokaryotic host cells : *Escherichia coli* strains (I.E. DH5-α strain) or *Bacillus subtilis*.

    b) Eukaryotic host cells : HeLa cells (ATCC N°CCL2; N°CCL2.1; N°CCL2.2), Cv 1 cells

5 (ATCC N°CCL70), COS cells (ATCC N°CRL1650; N°CRL1651), Sf-9 cells (ATCC N°CRL1711).

The constructs in the host cells can be used in a conventional manner to produce the gene product encoded by the recombinant sequence.

Following transformation of a suitable host and growth of the host to an appropriate cell density, the selected promoter is induced by appropriate means, such as temperature shift or

10 chemical induction, and cells are cultivated for an additional period.

Cells are typically harvested by centrifugation, disrupted by physical or chemical means, and the resulting crude extract retained for further purification.

Microbial cells employed in the expression of proteins can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing

15 agents. Such methods are well known by the skill artisan.

Transgenic animals

The terms "transgenic animals" or "host animals" are used herein to designate animals that have their genome genetically and artificially manipulated so as to include one of the nucleic acids according to the invention. Preferred animals are non-human mammals and include those belonging

20 to a genus selected from *Mus* (e.g. mice), *Rattus* (e.g. rats) and *Oryctogalus* (e.g. rabbits) which have their genome artificially and genetically altered by the insertion of a nucleic acid according to the invention.

The transgenic animals of the invention all include within a plurality of their cells a cloned recombinant or synthetic DNA sequence, more specifically one of the purified or isolated nucleic

25 acids comprising a *TBC-1* coding sequence, a *TBC-1* regulatory polynucleotide or a DNA sequence encoding an antisense polynucleotide such as described in the present specification.

More particularly, transgenic animals according to the invention contain in their somatic cells and/or in their germ line cells any of the polynucleotides described in *"TBC-1* cDNA Sequences" section, the "Coding Regions" section, "Genomic sequence of *TBC-1* " section, the

30 "Oligonucleotide Probes And Primers" section and the "Vectors for the expression of a regulatory or coding polynucleotide of *TBC-1*" section.

The transgenic animals of the invention thus contain specific sequences of exogenous genetic material such as the nucleotide sequences described above in detail.

In a first preferred embodiment, these transgenic animals may be good experimental models

35 in order to study the diverse pathologies related to cell differentiation, in particular concerning the

transgenic animals within the genome of which has been inserted one or several copies of a polynucleotide encoding a native TBC-1 protein, or alternatively a mutant TBC-1 protein.

In a second preferred embodiment, these transgenic animals may express a desired polypeptide of interest under the control of the regulatory polynucleotides of the *TBC-1* gene,

5 leading to good yields in the synthesis of this protein of interest, and eventually a tissue specific expression of this protein of interest.

Since it is possible to produce transgenic animals of the invention using a variety of different sequences, a general description will be given of the production of transgenic animals by referring generally to exogenous genetic material. This general description can be adapted by those

10 skilled in the art in order to incorporate the DNA sequences into animals. For more details regarding the production of transgenic animals, and specifically transgenic mice, it may be referred to Sandou et al. (1994) and also to US Patents Nos 4,873,191, issued Oct.10, 1989, 5,968,766, issued Dec. 16, 1997 and 5,387,742, issued Feb. 28, 1995, these documents being herein incorporated by reference to disclose methods for producing transgenic mice.

15 Transgenic animals of the present invention are produced by the application of procedures which result in an animal with a genome that incorporates exogenous genetic material which is integrated into the genome. The procedure involves obtaining the genetic material, or a portion thereof, which encodes either a *TBC-1* coding sequence, a *TBC-1* regulatory polynucleotide or a DNA sequence encoding an antisense polynucleotide such as described in the present specification.

20 A recombinant polynucleotide of the invention is inserted into an embryonic or ES stem cell line. The insertion is made using electroporation. The cells subjected to electroporation are screened (e.g. Southern blot analysis) to find positive cells which have integrated the exogenous recombinant polynucleotide into their genome. An illustrative positive-negative selection procedure that may be used according to the invention is described by Mansour et al. (1988). Then, the positive cells are

25 isolated, cloned and injected into 3.5 days old blastocysts from mice. The blastocysts are then inserted into a female host animal and allowed to grow to term. The offsprings of the female host are tested to determine which animals are transgenic e.g. include the inserted exogenous DNA sequence and which are wild-type.

Screening Of Agents Interacting With TBC-1

30 In a further embodiment, the present invention also concerns a method for the screening of new agents, or candidate substances interacting with TBC-1. These new agents could be useful against cancer.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention relates to a method for the screening of candidate substances comprising the following steps:

35 - providing a cell line, an organ, or a mammal expressing a *TBC-1* gene or a fragment thereof, preferably the regulatory region or the promoter region of the *TBC-1* gene.

- obtaining a candidate substance preferably a candidate substance capable of inhibiting the binding of a transcription factor to the *TBC-1* regulatory region,

- testing the ability of the candidate substance to decrease the symptoms of prostate cancer and/or to modulate the expression levels of *TBC-1*.

In some embodiments, the cell line, organ or mammal expresses a heterologous protein, the coding sequence of which is operably linked to the *TBC-1* regulatory or promoter sequence. In other embodiments, they express a *TBC-1* gene comprising alleles of one or more *TBC-1*-related biallelic markers.

A candidate substance is a substance which can interact with or modulate, by binding or other intramolecular interactions, expression, stability, and function of *TBC-1*. Such substances may be potentially interesting for patients who are not responsive to existing drugs or develop side effects to them. Screening may be effected using either *in vitro* methods or *in vivo* methods.

Such methods can be carried out in numerous ways such as on transformed cells which express the considered alleles of the *TBC-1* gene, on tumors induced by said transformed cells, for example in mice, or on a TBC-1 protein encoded by the considered allelic variant of TBC-1.

Screening assays of the present invention generally involve determining the ability of a candidate substance to present a cytotoxic effect, to change the characteristics of transformed cells such as proliferative and invasive capacity, to affect the tumor growth, or to modify the expression level of TBC-1.

Typically, this method includes preparing transformed cells with different forms of *TBC-1* sequences containing particular alleles of one or more biallelic markers and/or trait causing mutations described above. This is followed by testing the cells expressing the TBC-1 with a candidate substance to determine the ability of the substance to present cytotoxic effect, to affect the characteristics of transformed cells, the tumor growth, or to modify the expression level of *TBC-1*.

Typical examples of such drug screening assays are provided below. It is to be understood that the parameters set forth in these examples can be modified by the skilled person without undue experimentation.

Methods for screening substances interacting with a TBC-1 polypeptide

A method for the screening of a candidate substance according to the invention comprises the following steps :

a)providing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No 5, or a peptide fragment or a variant thereof;

b) obtaining a candidate substance;

c) bringing into contact said polypeptide with said candidate substance;

d) detecting the complexes formed between said polypeptide and said candidate substance.

For the purpose of the present invention, a ligand means a molecule, such as a protein, a peptide, an antibody or any synthetic chemical compound capable of binding to the TBC-1 protein

or one of its fragments or variants or to modulate the expression of the polynucleotide coding for

TBC-1 or a fragment or variant thereof.

In the ligand screening method according to the present invention, a biological sample or a

defined molecule to be tested as a putative ligand of the TBC-1 protein is brought into contact with

5   a purified TBC-1 protein, for example a purified recombinant TBC-1 protein produced by a

recombinant cell host as described hereinbefore, in order to form a complex between the TBC-1

protein and the putative ligand molecule to be tested.

A. Candidate ligands obtained form random peptide libraries

In a particular embodiment of the screening method, the putative ligand is the expression

10   product of a DNA insert contained in a phage vector (Parmley and Smith, 1988). Specifically,

random peptide phages libraries are used. The random DNA inserts encode peptides of 8 to 20

aminoacids in length (Oldenburg K.R. et al., 1992,.; Valadon P., et al., 1996; Lucas A.H., 1994;

Westerink M.A.J., 1995; Castagnoli L. et al., 1991). According to this particular embodiment, the

recombinant phages expressing a protein that binds to the immobilized TBC-1 protein are retained

15   and the complex formed between the TBC-1 protein and the recombinant phage may be

subsequently immunoprecipitated by a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody directed against the

TBC-1 protein.

Once the ligand library in recombinant phages has been constructed, the phage population is

brought into contact with the immobilized TBC-1 protein. Then the preparation of complexes is

20   washed in order to remove the non-specifically bound recombinant phages. The phages that bind

specifically to the TBC-1 protein are then eluted by a buffer (acid pH) or immunoprecipitated by the

anti-TBC-1monoclonal antibody produced by a hybridoma, and this phage population is

subsequently amplified by an over-infection of bacteria (for example E. coli). The selection step

may be repeated several times, preferably 2-4 times, in order to select the more specific

25   recombinant phage clones. The last step consists in characterizing the peptide produced by the

selected recombinant phage clones either by expression in infected bacteria and isolation,

expressing the phage insert in another host-vector system, or sequencing the insert contained in the

selected recombinant phages.

B. Candidate ligands obtained through a two-hybrid screening assay.

30   The yeast two-hybrid system is designed to study protein-protein interactions in vivo (Fields

and Song, 1989), and relies upon the fusion of a bait protein to the DNA binding domain of the

yeast Gal4 protein. This technique is also described in US Patent N° US 5,667,973 and US Patent

N° 5,283,173 (Fields et al.) the technical teachings of both patents being herein incorporated by

reference.

35   The general procedure of library screening by the two-hybrid assay may be performed as

described by Harper et al. (Harper JW et al., 1993) or as described by Cho et al. (1998) or also

Fromont-Racine et al. (1997).

The bait protein or polypeptide consists of a TBC-1 polypeptide or a fragment or variant thereof.

More precisely, the nucleotide sequence encoding the TBC-1 polypeptide or a fragment or variant thereof is fused to a polynucleotide encoding the DNA binding domain of the GAL4 protein,
5   the fused nucleotide sequence being inserted in a suitable expression vector, for example pAS2 or pM3.

Then, a human cDNA library is constructed in a specially designed vector, such that the human cDNA insert is fused to a nucleotide sequence in the vector that encodes the transcriptional domain of the GAL4 protein. Preferably, the vector used is the pACT vector. The polypeptides
10 encoded by the nucleotide inserts of the human cDNA library are termed "pray" polypeptides.

A third vector contains a detectable marker gene, such as beta galactosidase gene or CAT gene that is placed under the control of a regulation sequence that is responsive to the binding of a complete Gal4 protein containing both the transcriptional activation domain and the DNA binding domain. For example, the vector pG5EC may be used.
15 Two different yeast strains are also used. As an illustrative but non limiting example the two different yeast strains may be the following :

-   Y190, the phenotype of which is (*MATa, Leu2-3, 112 ura3-12, trp1-901, his3-D200, ade2-101, gal4Dgal180D URA3 GAL-LacZ, LYS GAL-HIS3, cyh^r*);

-   Y187, the phenotype of which is (*MATa gal4 gal80 his3 trp1-901 ade2-101 ura3-52 leu2-3, -*
20 *112 URA3 GAL-lacZmet*), which is the opposite mating type of Y190.

Briefly, 20 µg of pAS2/TBC-1 and 20 µg of pACT-cDNA library are co-transformed into yeast strain Y190. The transformants are selected for growth on minimal media lacking histidine, leucine and tryptophan, but containing the histidine synthesis inhibitor 3-AT (50 mM). Positive colonies are screened for beta galactosidase by filter lift assay. The double positive colonies (*His$^+$*,
25 *beta-gal$^+$*) are then grown on plates lacking histidine, leucine, but containing tryptophan and cycloheximide (10 mg/ml) to select for loss of pAS2/TBC-1 plasmids but retention of pACT-cDNA library plasmids. The resulting Y190 strains are mated with Y187 strains expressing TBC-1 or non-related control proteins; such as cyclophilin B, lamin, or SNF1, as *Gal4* fusions as described by Harper et al. (1993) and by Bram et al. (1993), and screened for beta galactosidase by filter lift
30 assay. Yeast clones that are *beta gal-* after mating with the control *Gal4* fusions are considered false positives.

In another embodiment of the two-hybrid method according to the invention, the interaction between TBC-1 or a fragment or variant thereof with cellular proteins may be assessed using the Matchmaker Two Hybrid System 2 (Catalog No. K1604-1, Clontech).). As described in the manual
35 accompanying the Matchmaker Two Hybrid System 2 (Catalog No. K1604-1, Clontech), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, nucleic acids encoding the TBC-1 protein or a portion thereof, are inserted into an expression vector such that they are in frame with DNA encoding the DNA

binding domain of the yeast transcriptional activator GAL4. A desired cDNA, preferably human

cDNA, is inserted into a second expression vector such that they are in frame with DNA encoding the

activation domain of GAL4. The two expression plasmids are transformed into the yeast cells and the

yeast cells are plated on selection medium which selects for expression of selectable markers on each of

5   the expression vectors as well as GAL4 dependent expression of the HIS3 gene. Transformants

capable of growing on medium lacking histidine are screened for GAL4 dependent lacZ expression.

Those cells which are positive in both the histidine selection and the lacZ assay are those in which an

interaction between TBC-1 and the protein or peptide encoded by the initially selected cDNA insert has

taken place.

10   **Method for screening ligands that modulate the expression of the *TBC-1* gene.**

Another subject of the present invention is a method for screening molecules that modulate

the expression of the TBC-1 protein. Such a screening method comprises the steps of :

a) cultivating a prokaryotic or an eukaryotic cell that has been transfected with a nucleotide

sequence encoding the TBC-1 protein, operably linked to a *TBC-1* 5'-regulatory sequence;

15   b) bringing into contact the cultivated cell with a molecule to be tested;

c) quantifying the expression of the TBC-1 protein.

Using DNA recombination techniques well known by the one skill in the art, the TBC-1

protein encoding DNA sequence is inserted into an expression vector, downstream from a *TBC-1*

5'-regulatory sequence that contains a *TBC-1* promoter sequence.

20   The quantification of the expression of the TBC-1 protein may be realized either at the

mRNA level or at the protein level. In the latter case, polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies may be

used to quantify the amounts of the TBC-1 protein that have been produced, for example in an

ELISA or a RIA assay.

In a preferred embodiment, the quantification of the *TBC-1* mRNAs is realized by a

25   quantitative PCR amplification of the cDNAs obtained by a reverse transcription of the total mRNA

of the cultivated *TBC-1*-transfected host cell, using a pair of primers specific for *TBC-1*.

Expression levels and patterns of *TBC-1* may be analyzed by solution hybridization with long

probes as described in International Patent Application No. WO 97/05277, the entire contents of which

are incorporated herein by reference. Briefly, the *TBC-1* cDNA or the *TBC-1* genomic DNA described

30   above, or fragments thereof, is inserted at a cloning site immediately downstream of a bacteriophage

(T3, T7 or SP6) RNA polymerase promoter to produce antisense RNA. Preferably, the *TBC-1* insert

comprises at least 100 or more consecutive nucleotides of the genomic DNA sequence or the cDNA

sequences, particularly those comprising one of the nuceotide sequences of SEQ ID Nos 3, 4 and 6-8 or

those encoding a mutated TBC-1. The plasmid is linearized and transcribed in the presence of

35   ribonucleotides comprising modified ribonucleotides (i.e. biotin-UTP and DIG-UTP). An excess of

this doubly labeled RNA is hybridized in solution with mRNA isolated from cells or tissues of interest.

The hybridizations are performed under standard stringent conditions (40-50°C for 16 hours in an 80%

formamide, 0.4 M NaCl buffer, pH 7-8). The unhybridized probe is removed by digestion with ribonucleases specific for single-stranded RNA (i.e. RNases CL3, T1, Phy M, U2 or A). The presence of the biotin-UTP modification enables capture of the hybrid on a microtitration plate coated with streptavidin. The presence of the DIG modification enables the hybrid to be detected and quantified by

5   ELISA using an anti-DIG antibody coupled to alkaline phosphatase.

Quantitative analysis of *TBC-1* gene expression may also be performed using arrays. As used herein, the term array means a one dimensional, two dimensional, or multidimensional arrangement of a plurality of nucleic acids of sufficient length to permit specific detection of expression of mRNAs capable of hybridizing thereto. For example, the arrays may contain a

10   plurality of nucleic acids derived from genes whose expression levels are to be assessed. The arrays may include the *TBC-1* genomic DNA, the *TBC-1* cDNA sequences or the sequences complementary thereto or fragments thereof, particularly those comprising at least one of the biallelic markers according the present invention. Preferably, the fragments are at least 15 nucleotides in length. In other embodiments, the fragments are at least 25 nucleotides in length. In

15   some embodiments, the fragments are at least 50 nucleotides in length. More preferably, the fragments are at least 100 nucleotides in length. In another preferred embodiment, the fragments are more than 100 nucleotides in length. In some embodiments the fragments may be more than 500 nucleotides in length.

For example, quantitative analysis of *TBC-1* gene expression may be performed with a

20   complementary DNA microarray as described by Schena et al. (1995). Full length *TBC-1* cDNAs or fragments thereof are amplified by PCR and arrayed from a 96-well microtiter plate onto silylated microscope slides using high-speed robotics. Printed arrays are incubated in a humid chamber to allow rehydration of the array elements and rinsed, once in 0.2% SDS for 1 min, twice in water for 1 min and once for 5 min in sodium borohydride solution. The arrays are submerged in water for 2

25   min at 95°C, transferred into 0.2% SDS for 1 min, rinsed twice with water, air dried and stored in the dark at 25°C.

Cell or tissue mRNA is isolated or commercially obtained and probes are prepared by a single round of reverse transcription. Probes are hybridized to 1 cm^2 microarrays under a 14 x 14 mm glass coverslip for 6-12 hours at 60°C. Arrays are washed for 5 min at 25°C in low stringency

30   wash buffer (1 x SSC/0.2% SDS), then for 10 min at room temperature in high stringency wash buffer (0.1 x SSC/0.2% SDS). Arrays are scanned in 0.1 x SSC using a fluorescence laser scanning device fitted with a custom filter set. Accurate differential expression measurements are obtained by taking the average of the ratios of two independent hybridizations.

Quantitative analysis of *TBC-1* gene expression may also be performed with full length

35   *TBC-1* cDNAs or fragments thereof in complementary DNA arrays as described by Pietu et al. (1996). The full length *TBC-1* cDNA or fragments thereof is PCR amplified and spotted on membranes. Then, mRNAs originating from various tissues or cells are labeled with radioactive

nucleotides. After hybridization and washing in controlled conditions, the hybridized mRNAs are detected by phospho-imaging or autoradiography. Duplicate experiments are performed and a quantitative analysis of differentially expressed mRNAs is then performed.

Alternatively, expression analysis using the TBC-1 genomic DNA, the TBC-1 cDNAs, or

5 fragments thereof can be done through high density nucleotide arrays or chips as described by Lockhart et al. (1996) and Sosnowsky et al. (1997). Oligonucleotides of 15-50 nucleotides from the sequences of the TBC-1 genomic DNA, the TBC-1 cDNA sequences particularly those comprising at least one of biallelic markers according the present invention, preferably at least one of SEQ ID No 7-8 or those comprising the trait causing mutation, or the sequences complementary thereto, are

10 synthesized directly on the chip (Lockhart et al., supra) or synthesized and then addressed to the chip (Sosnowski et al., supra). Preferably, the oligonucleotides are about 20 nucleotides in length.

TBC-1 cDNA probes labeled with an appropriate compound, such as biotin, digoxigenin or fluorescent dye, are synthesized from the appropriate mRNA population and then randomly fragmented to an average size of 50 to 100 nucleotides. The said probes are then hybridized to the

15 chip. After washing as described in Lockhart et al., supra and application of different electric fields (Sosnowsky et al., 1997)., the dyes or labeling compounds are detected and quantified. Duplicate hybridizations are performed. Comparative analysis of the intensity of the signal originating from cDNA probes on the same target oligonucleotide in different cDNA samples indicates a differential expression of TBC-1 mRNAs.

20   Thus, is also part of the present invention a method for screening of a candidate substance or molecule that modulates the expression of the TBC-1 gene according to the invention, wherein this method comprises the following steps :

    a) providing a recombinant cell host containing a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises the 5' regulatory région sequence or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof, the

25 5' regulatory region or its biologically active fragment or variant being operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a detectable protein;

    b) obtaining a candidate substance, and

    c) determining the ability of the candidate substance to modulate the expression levels of the polynucleotide encoding the detectable protein.

30   In a preferred embodiment of the above screening method, the nucleic acid comprising the 5' regulatory region sequence or a biologically active fragment or variant thereof also includes a 5'UTR region of one of the TBC-1 cDNAs of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4, or one of their biologically active fragments or variants thereof.

    A second method for the screening of a candidate substance or molecule that modulates the

35 expression of the TBC-1 gene comprises the following steps :

    a) providing a recombinant cell host containing a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a 5'UTR sequence of one of the TBC-1 cDNAs of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4, or one of their

biologically active fragments or variants, the 5'UTR sequence or its biologically active fragment or variant being operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a detectable protein;

b) obtaining a candidate substance, and

c) determining the ability of the candidate substance to modulate the expression levels of

5   the polynucleotide encoding the detectable protein.

In a preferred embodiment of the screening method described above, the nucleic acid that comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the 5'UTR sequence of one of the TBC-1 cDNAs of SEQ ID Nos 3 and 4 or one of their biologically active fragments or variants, includes a promoter sequence, wherein said promoter sequence can be either endogenous,

10   or in contrast exogenous with respect to the TBC-1 5'UTR sequences defined therein.

Among the preferred polynucleotides encoding a detectable protein, there may be cited polynucleotides encoding beta galactosidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP) and chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT).

For the design of suitable recombinant vectors useful for performing the screening methods

15   described above, it will be referred to the section of the present specification wherein the preferred recombinant vectors of the invention are detailed.

Screening using transgenic animals

In vivo methods can utilize transgenic animals for drug screening. Nucleic acids including at least one of the biallelic polymorphisms of interest can be used to generate genetically modified

20   non-human animals or to generate site specific gene modifications in cell lines. The term "transgenic" is intended to encompass genetically modified animals having a deletion or other knock-out of TBC-1 gene activity, having an exogenous TBC-1 gene that is stably transmitted in the host cells, or having an exogenous TBC-1 promoter operably linked to a reporter gene. Transgenic animals may be made through homologous recombination, where the TBC-1 locus is altered.

25   Alternatively, a nucleic acid construct is randomly integrated into the genome. Vectors for stable integration include for example plasmids, retroviruses and other animal viruses, and YACs. Of interest are transgenic mammals e.g. cows, pigs, goats, horses, and particularly rodents such as rats and mice. Transgenic animals allow to study both efficacy and toxicity of the candidate drug.

Methods for inhibiting the expression of a TBC-1 gene

30   Other therapeutic compositions according to the present invention comprise advantageously an oligonucleotide fragment of the nucleic sequence of TBC-1 as an antisense tool that inhibits the expression of the corresponding TBC-1 gene. Preferred methods using antisense polynucleotide according to the present invention are the procedures described by Sczakiel et al. (1995).

Preferably, the antisense tools are chosen among the polynucleotides (15-200 bp long) that

35   are complementary to the 5'end of the TBC-1 mRNA. In another embodiment, a combination of different antisense polynucleotides complementary to different parts of the desired targetted gene are used.

Preferred antisense polynucleotides according to the present invention are complementary

to a sequence of the mRNAs of *TBC-1* that contains the translation initiation codon ATG.

The antisense nucleic acid molecules to be used in gene therapy may be either DNA or

RNA sequences. They comprise a nucleotide sequence complementary to the targeted sequence of

5   the PTCA-1 genomic DNA, the sequence of which can be determined using one of the detection

methods of the present invention. The targeted DNA or RNA sequence preferably comprises at least

one of the biallelic markers according to the present invention. The antisense nucleic acids should

have a length and melting temperature sufficient to permit formation of an intracellular duplex

having sufficient stability to inhibit the expression of the *TBC-1* mRNA in the duplex. Strategies for

10   designing antisense nucleic acids suitable for use in gene therapy are disclosed in Green et al.,

(1986) and Izant and Weintraub, (1984), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by

reference.

In some strategies, antisense molecules are obtained by reversing the orientation of the

TBC-1 coding region with respect to a promoter so as to transcribe the opposite strand from that

15   which is normally transcribed in the cell. The antisense molecules may be transcribed using in vitro

transcription systems such as those which employ T7 or SP6 polymerase to generate the transcript.

Another approach involves transcription of *TBC-1* antisense nucleic acids in vivo by operably

linking DNA containing the antisense sequence to a promoter in a suitable expression vector.

Alternatively, suitable antisense strategies are those described by Rossi et al. (1991), in the

20   International Applications Nos. WO 94/23026, WO 95/04141, WO 92/18522 and in the European

Patent Application No. EP 0 572 287 A2

An alternative to the antisense technology that is used according to the present invention

consists in using ribozymes that will bind to a target sequence via their complementary

polynucleotide tail and that will cleave the corresponding RNA by hydrolyzing its target site

25   (namely « hammerhead ribozymes »). Briefly, the simplified cycle of a hammerhead ribozyme

consists of (1) sequence specific binding to the target RNA via complementary antisense sequences;

(2) site-specific hydrolysis of the cleavable motif of the target strand; and (3) release of cleavage

products, which gives rise to another catalytic cycle. Indeed, the use of long-chain antisense

polynucleotide (at least 30 bases long) or ribozymes with long antisense arms are advantageous. A

30   preferred delivery system for antisense ribozyme is achieved by covalently linking these antisense

ribozymes to lipophilic groups or to use liposomes as a convenient vector. Preferred antisense

ribozymes according to the present invention are prepared as described by Sczakiel et al. (1995), the

specific preparation procedures being referred to in said article being herein incorporated by

reference.

35

Throughout this application, various publications, patents and published patent applications

are cited. The disclosures of these publications, patents and published patent specification

referenced in this application are hereby incorporated by reference into the present disclosure to more fully describe the sate of the art to which this invention pertains.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1 :

5   **Analysis of the first mRNA encoding a TBC-1 polypeptide synthesized by the cells.**

TBC-1 cDNA was obtained as follows : 4µl of ethanol suspension containing 1 mg of human prostate total RNA (Clontech laboratories, Inc., Palo Alto, USA; Catalogue N. 64038-1) was centrifuged, and the resulting pellet was air dried for 30 minutes at room temperature.

First strand cDNA synthesis was performed using the AdvantageTM RT-for- PCR kit
10 (Clontech laboratories Inc., catalogue N. K1402-1). 1 µl of 20 mM solution of a specific oligo dT primer was added to 12.5 µl of RNA solution in water, heated at 74°C for 2.5 min and rapidly quenched in an ice bath. 10 µl of 5 x RT buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 75 mM KCl, 3 mM $MgCl_2$), 2.5 µl of dNTP mix (10 mM each), 1.25 µl of human recombinant placental RNA inhibitor were mixed with 1 ml of MMLV reverse transcriptase (200 units). 6.5 µl of this solution were
15 added to RNA-primer mix and incubated at 42°C for one hour. 80 µl of water were added and the solution was incubated at 94°C for 5 minutes.

5µl of the resulting solution were used in a Long Range PCR reaction with hot start, in 50 µl final volume, using 2 units of rtTHXL, 20 pmol/µl of each of 5'-TGACCACCATGCCCATGCT-3' (271-289 in SEQ ID No 3) and 5'-
20 GCATTTATTCACGTCCACGCC-3' (3929-3949 in SEQ ID No 3) primers with 35 cycles of elongation for 6 minutes at 67°C in thermocycler.

The amplification products corresponding to both cDNA strands were partially sequenced in order to ensure the specificity of the amplification reaction.

Results of Nothern blot analysis of prostate mRNAs supported the existence of the first
25 TBC-1 cDNA having about 4 kb in length, which is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 3.

Example 2 :

Detection of *TBC-1* biallelic markers: DNA extraction

Donors were unrelated and healthy. They presented a sufficient diversity for being representative of a French heterogeneous population. The DNA from 100 individuals was extracted
30 and tested for the detection of the biallelic markers.

30 ml of peripheral venous blood were taken from each donor in the presence of EDTA. Cells (pellet) were collected after centrifugation for 10 minutes at 2000 rpm. Red cells were lysed by a lysis solution (50 ml final volume : 10 mM Tris pH7.6; 5 mM $MgCl_2$; 10 mM NaCl). The

solution was centrifuged (10 minutes, 2000 rpm) as many times as necessary to eliminate the residual red cells present in the supernatant, after resuspension of the pellet in the lysis solution.

The pellet of white cells was lysed overnight at 42°C with 3.7 ml of lysis solution composed of:

5
- 3 ml TE 10-2 (Tris-HCl 10 mM, EDTA 2 mM) / NaCl 0.4 M

- 200 μl SDS 10%

- 500 μl K-proteinase (2 mg K-proteinase in TE 10-2 / NaCl 0.4 M).

For the extraction of proteins, 1 ml saturated NaCl (6M) (1/3.5 v/v) was added. After vigorous agitation, the solution was centrifuged for 20 minutes at 10000 rpm.

10 For the precipitation of DNA, 2 to 3 volumes of 100% ethanol were added to the previous supernatant, and the solution was centrifuged for 30 minutes at 2000 rpm. The DNA solution was rinsed three times with 70% ethanol to eliminate salts, and centrifuged for 20 minutes at 2000 rpm. The pellet was dried at 37°C, and resuspended in 1 ml TE 10-1 or 1 ml water. The DNA concentration was evaluated by measuring the OD at 260 nm (1 unit OD = 50 μg/ml DNA).

15 To determine the presence of proteins in the DNA solution, the OD 260 / OD 280 ratio was determined. Only DNA preparations having a OD 260 / OD 280 ratio between 1.8 and 2 were used in the subsequent examples described below.

The pool was constituted by mixing equivalent quantities of DNA from each individual.

Example 3 :

20 ### Detection of the biallelic markers: amplification of genomic DNA by PCR

The amplification of specific genomic sequences of the DNA samples of example 2 was carried out on the pool of DNA obtained previously. In addition, 50 individual samples were similarly amplified.

PCR assays were performed using the following protocol:

25
Final volume	25 μl
DNA	2 ng/μl
MgCl$_2$	2 mM
dNTP (each)	200 μM
primer (each)	2.9 ng/μl
30 Ampli Taq Gold DNA polymerase	0.05 unit/μl
PCR buffer (10x = 0.1 M TrisHCl pH8.3 0.5M KCl	1x

Each pair of first primers was designed using the sequence information of the *TBC-1* gene disclosed herein and the OSP software (Hillier & Green, 1991). This first pair of primers was about 20 nucleotides in length and had the sequences disclosed in Table 1 in the columns labeled PU and 35 RP.

Table 1

Amplicon	Position range of the amplicon in SEQ ID 1		Primer name	Position range of amplification primer in SEQ ID No 1		Primer name	Complementary position range of amplification primer in SEQ ID No 1	
99-430	9391	9845	B1	9391	9408	C1	9828	9845
Amplicon	Position range of the amplicon in SEQ ID 2		Primer name	Position range of amplification primer in SEQ ID No 2		Primer name	Complementary position range of amplification primer in SEQ ID No 2	
99-20508	988	1529	B2	988	1006	C2	1509	1529
99-20469	5039	5554	B3	5039	5056	C3	5534	5554
5-254	5997	6350	B4	5997	6015	C4	6332	6350
5-257	14371	14817	B5	14371	14390	C5	14798	14817
99-20511	18751	19217	B6	18751	18771	C6	19198	19217
99-20510	19605	20005	B7	19605	19625	C7	19986	20005
99-20504	29529	30061	B8	29529	29547	C8	30041	30061
99-20493	42268	42752	B9	42268	42287	C9	42732	42752
99-20499	69026	69543	B10	69026	69046	C10	69525	69543
99-20473	76323	76790	B11	76323	76343	C11	76771	76790
5-249	78292	78721	B12	78292	78309	C12	78704	78721
99-20485	81893	82372	B13	81893	81912	C13	82353	82372
99-20481	84392	84929	B14	84392	84412	C14	84909	84929
99-20480	89746	90198	B15	89746	89765	C15	90179	90198

Preferably, the primers contained a common oligonucleotide tail upstream of the specific bases targeted for amplification which was useful for sequencing.

5   Primers PU contain the following additional PU 5' sequence : TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGT (SEQ ID No 6); primers RP contain the following RP 5' sequence : CAGGAAACAGCTATGACC (SEQ ID No 7).

The synthesis of these primers was performed following the phosphoramidite method, on a GENSET UFPS 24.1 synthesizer.

10   DNA amplification was performed on a Genius II thermocycler. After heating at 95°C for 10 min, 40 cycles were performed. Each cycle comprised: 30 sec at 95°C, 54°C for 1 min, and 30 sec at 72°C. For final elongation, 10 min at 72°C ended the amplification. The quantities of the amplification products obtained were determined on 96-well microtiter plates, using a fluorometer and Picogreen as intercalant agent (Molecular Probes).

15   Example 4 :

Detection of the biallelic markers: sequencing of amplified genomic DNA and identification of polymorphisms.

The sequencing of the amplified DNA obtained in example 3 was carried out on ABI 377 sequencers. The sequences of the amplification products were determined using automated dideoxy 20 terminator sequencing reactions with a dye terminator cycle sequencing protocol. The products of

the sequencing reactions were run on sequencing gels and the sequences were determined using gel image analysis [ABI Prism DNA Sequencing Analysis software (2.1.2 version)].

The sequence data were further evaluated to detect the presence of biallelic markers among the pooled amplified fragments. The polymorphism search was based on the presence of

5   superimposed peaks in the electrophoresis pattern resulting from different bases occurring at the same position as described previously.

15 fragments of amplification was analyzed. In this segment, 19 biallelic markers were detected. The localization of the biallelic marker is as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Amplicon	BM	Marker Name	Localization in *TBC-1* gene	Polymorphism		BM position in SEQ ID No 1
				Allele 1	allele 2	
99-430	A1	99-430-352	Intron 1	A	G	9494
Amplicon	BM	Marker Name	Localization in *TBC-1* gene	Polymorphism		BM position in SEQ ID No 2
				allele 1	allele 2	
99-20508	A2	99-20508-456	Intron upstream to Exon A	C	T	1443
99-20469	A3	99-20469-213	Intron A	C	T	5247
5-254	A4	5-254-227	Intron B	A	G	6223
5-257	A5	5-257-353	Intron D	C	T	14723
99-20511	A6	99-20511-32	Intron D	C	T	19186
99-20511	A7	99-20511-221	Intron D	A	G	18997
99-20510	A8	99-20510-115	Intron D	deletion of TCT		19891
99-20504	A9	99-20504-90	Intron D	A	G	29617
99-20493	A10	99-20493-238	Intron D	A	C	42519
99-20499	A11	99-20499-221	Intron G	A	G	69324
99-20499	A12	99-20499-364	Intron G	A	T	69181
99-20499	A13	99-20499-399	Intron G	A	G	69146
99-20473	A14	99-20473-138	Intron H	deletion of TAACA		76458
5-249	A15	5-249-304	Intron I	A	G	78595
99-20485	A16	99-20485-269	Intron I	A	G	82159
99-20481	A17	99-20481-131	Intron I	G	C	84522
99-20481	A18	99-20481-419	Intron I	A	T	84810
99-20480	A19	99-20480-233	Intron J	A	G	89967

10   BM refers to "biallelic marker". All1 and all2 refer respectively to allele 1 and allele 2 of the biallelic marker.

Table 3

BM	Marker Name	Position range of probes in SEQ ID No 1		Probes
A1	99-430-352	9482	9506	P1

BM	Marker Name	Position range of probes in SEQ ID No 2		Probes
A2	99-20508-456	1431	1455	P2
A3	99-20469-213	5235	5259	P3
A4	5-254-227	6211	6235	P4
A5	5-257-353	14711	14735	P5
A6	99-20511-32	19174	19198	P6
A7	99-20511-221	18985	19009	P7
A9	99-20504-90	29605	29629	P9
A10	99-20493-238	42507	42531	P10
A11	99-20499-221	69312	69336	P11
A12	99-20499-364	69169	69193	P12
A13	99-20499-399	69134	69158	P13
A15	5-249-304	78583	78607	P15
A16	99-20485-269	82147	82171	P16
A17	99-20481-131	84510	84534	P17
A18	99-20481-419	84798	84822	P18
A19	99-20480-233	89955	89979	P19

Example 5 :

Validation of the polymorphisms through microsequencing

The biallelic markers identified in example 4 were further confirmed and their respective

5   frequencies were determined through microsequencing. Microsequencing was carried out for each individual DNA sample described in Example 2.

Amplification from genomic DNA of individuals was performed by PCR as described above for the detection of the biallelic markers with the same set of PCR primers (Table 1).

The preferred primers used in microsequencing were about 19 nucleotides in length and

10   hybridized just upstream of the considered polymorphic base. According to the invention, the primers used in microsequencing are detailed in Table 4.

Table 4

Marker Name	Biallelic Marker	Mis. 1	Position range of microsequencing primer mis 1 in SEQ ID No 1		Mis. 2	Complementary position range of microsequencing primer mis. 2 in SEQ ID No 1	
99-430-352	A1	D1	9475	9493	E1	9495	9513
Marker Name	Biallelic Marker	Mis. 1	Position range of microsequencing primer mis 1 in SEQ ID No 2		Mis. 2	Complementary position range of microsequencing primer mis. 2 in SEQ ID No 2	
99-20508-456	A2	D2	1424	1442	E2	1444	1462
99-20469-213	A3	D3	5228	5246	E3	5248	5266
5-254-227	A4	D4	6204	6222	E4	6224	6242
5-257-353	A5	D5	14704	14722	E5	14724	14742
99-20511-32	A6	D6	19167	19185	E6	19187	19205
99-20511-221	A7	D7	18978	18996	E7	18998	19016

99-20510-115	A8	D8	19872	19890	E8	19892	19910
99-20504-90	A9	D9	29598	29616	E9	29618	29636
99-20493-238	A10	D10	42500	42518	E10	42520	42538
99-20499-221	A11	D11	69305	69323	E11	69325	69343
99-20499-364	A12	D12	69162	69180	E12	69182	69200
99-20499-399	A13	D13	69127	69145	E13	69147	69165
99-20473-138	A14	D14	76439	76457	E14	76459	76477
5-249-304	A15	D15	78576	78594	E15	78596	78614
99-20485-269	A16	D16	82140	82158	E16	82160	82178
99-20481-131	A17	D17	84503	84521	E17	84523	84541
99-20481-419	A18	D18	84791	84809	E18	84811	84829
99-20480-233	A19	D19	89948	89966	E19	89968	89986

The microsequencing reaction was performed as follows :

After purification of the amplification products, the microsequencing reaction mixture was prepared by adding, in a 20μl final volume: 10 pmol microsequencing oligonucleotide, 1 U

5   Thermosequenase (Amersham E79000G), 1.25 μl Thermosequenase buffer (260 mM Tris HCl pH 9.5, 65 mM MgCl$_2$), and the two appropriate fluorescent ddNTPs (Perkin Elmer, Dye Terminator Set 401095) complementary to the nucleotides at the polymorphic site of each biallelic marker tested, following the manufacturer's recommendations. After 4 minutes at 94°C, 20 PCR cycles of 15 sec at 55°C, 5 sec at 72°C, and 10 sec at 94°C were carried out in a Tetrad PTC-225

10   thermocycler (MJ Research). The unincorporated dye terminators were then removed by ethanol precipitation. Samples were finally resuspended in formamide-EDTA loading buffer and heated for 2 min at 95°C before being loaded on a polyacrylamide sequencing gel. The data were collected by an ABI PRISM 377 DNA sequencer and processed using the GENESCAN software (Perkin Elmer).

Following gel analysis, data were automatically processed with software that allows the

15   determination of the alleles of biallelic markers present in each amplified fragment.

The software evaluates such factors as whether the intensities of the signals resulting from the above microsequencing procedures are weak, normal, or saturated, or whether the signals are ambiguous. In addition, the software identifies significant peaks (according to shape and height criteria). Among the significant peaks, peaks corresponding to the targeted site are identified based

20   on their position. When two significant peaks are detected for the same position, each sample is categorized classification as homozygous or heterozygous type based on the height ratio.

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1119.

SEQUENCE LISTING FREE TEXT

35   The following free text appears in the accompanying Sequence Listing :

5' regulatory region

polymorphic base

complement

3' regulatory region

deletion of

5   or

probe

homology with Genset 5' EST in ref

sequencing oligonucleotide PrimerPU

sequencing oligonucleotide PrimerRP

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<120> Nucleic acids encoding human TBC-1 protein and polymorphic markers
thereof.

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<150> US 60/095,653

<151> 1998-08-07

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acagaaaaac agtgataact gttttgctga gttcccagac ccttcccaag atg gaa       176
                                                            Met Glu
                                                             1

cca ata aca ttc aca gca agg aaa cat ctg ctt cct aac gag gtc tcg      224
Pro Ile Thr Phe Thr Ala Arg Lys His Leu Leu Pro Asn Glu Val Ser
         5              10                  15

gtg gat ttt ggc ctg cag ctg gtg ggc tcc ctg cct gtg cat tcc ctg      272
Val Asp Phe Gly Leu Gln Leu Val Gly Ser Leu Pro Val His Ser Leu
     20              25                  30

acc acc atg ccc atg ctg ccc tgg gtt gtg gct gag gtg cga aga ctc      320
Thr Thr Met Pro Met Leu Pro Trp Val Val Ala Glu Val Arg Arg Leu
35                  40                  45                  50

agc agg cag tcc acc aga aag gaa cct gta acc aag caa gtc cgg ctt      368
Ser Arg Gln Ser Thr Arg Lys Glu Pro Val Thr Lys Gln Val Arg Leu
             55                  60                  65

tgc gtt tca ccc tct gga ctg aga tgt gaa cct gag cca ggg aga agt      416
Cys Val Ser Pro Ser Gly Leu Arg Cys Glu Pro Glu Pro Gly Arg Ser
             70                  75                  80

caa cag tgg gat ccc ctg atc tat tcc agc atc ttt gag tgc aag cct      464
Gln Gln Trp Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ser Ser Ile Phe Glu Cys Lys Pro
         85                  90                  95
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Gln Arg Val His Lys Leu Ile His Asn Ser His Asp Pro Ser Tyr Phe
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gct tgt ctg att aag gaa gac gct gtc cac cgg cag agt atc tgc tat     560
Ala Cys Leu Ile Lys Glu Asp Ala Val His Arg Gln Ser Ile Cys Tyr
115             120                 125                 130

gtg ttc aaa gcc gat gat caa aca aaa gtg cct gag atc atc agc tcc     608
Val Phe Lys Ala Asp Asp Gln Thr Lys Val Pro Glu Ile Ile Ser Ser
                135                 140                 145

atc cgt cag gcg ggg aag atc gcc cgg cag gag gag ctg cac tgc ccg     656
Ile Arg Gln Ala Gly Lys Ile Ala Arg Gln Glu Glu Leu His Cys Pro
                150                 155                 160

tcc gag ttc gac gac acg ttt tcc aag aag ttc gag gtg ctc ttc tgc     704
Ser Glu Phe Asp Asp Thr Phe Ser Lys Lys Phe Glu Val Leu Phe Cys
                165                 170                 175

ggc cgc gtg acg gtg gcg cac aag aag gct ccg ccg gcc ctg atc gac     752
Gly Arg Val Thr Val Ala His Lys Lys Ala Pro Pro Ala Leu Ile Asp
        180             185                 190

gag tgc atc gag aag ttc aat cac gtc agc ggc agc cgg ggg tcc gag     800
Glu Cys Ile Glu Lys Phe Asn His Val Ser Gly Ser Arg Gly Ser Glu
195             200                 205                 210

agc ccc cgc ccc aac ccg ccc cat gcc gcg ccc aca ggg agc cag gag     848
Ser Pro Arg Pro Asn Pro Pro His Ala Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Gln Glu
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cct gtg cgc agg ccc atg cgc aag tcc ttc tcc cag ccc ggc ctg cgc     896
Pro Val Arg Arg Pro Met Arg Lys Ser Phe Ser Gln Pro Gly Leu Arg
                230             235                 240

tcg ctg gcc ttt agg aag gag ctg cag gat ggg ggc ctc cga agc agc     944
Ser Leu Ala Phe Arg Lys Glu Leu Gln Asp Gly Gly Leu Arg Ser Ser
        245             250                 255

ggc ttc ttc agc tcc ttc gag gag agc gac att gag aac cac ctc att     992
Gly Phe Phe Ser Ser Phe Glu Glu Ser Asp Ile Glu Asn His Leu Ile
        260             265                 270

agc gga cac aat att gtg cag ccc aca gat atc gag gaa aat cga act    1040
Ser Gly His Asn Ile Val Gln Pro Thr Asp Ile Glu Glu Asn Arg Thr
275             280                 285                 290

atg ctc ttc acg att ggc cag tct gaa gtt tac ctc atc agt cct gac    1088
Met Leu Phe Thr Ile Gly Gln Ser Glu Val Tyr Leu Ile Ser Pro Asp
                295                 300                 305

acc aaa aaa ata gca ttg gag aaa aat ttt aag gag ata tcc ttt tgc    1136
Thr Lys Lys Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Asn Phe Lys Glu Ile Ser Phe Cys
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Ser	Gln	Gly	Ile	Arg	His	Val	Asp	His	Phe	Gly	Phe	Ile	Cys	Arg	Glu
		325					330					335			

tct	tcc	gga	ggt	ggc	ggc	ttt	cat	ttt	gtc	tgt	tac	gtg	ttt	cag	tgc	1232
Ser	Ser	Gly	Gly	Gly	Gly	Phe	His	Phe	Val	Cys	Tyr	Val	Phe	Gln	Cys
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aca	aat	gag	gct	ctg	gtt	gat	gaa	att	atg	atg	acc	ctg	aaa	cag	gcc	1280
Thr	Asn	Glu	Ala	Leu	Val	Asp	Glu	Ile	Met	Met	Thr	Leu	Lys	Gln	Ala
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Phe	Thr	Val	Ala	Ala	Val	Gln	Gln	Thr	Ala	Lys	Ala	Pro	Ala	Gln	Leu
			375				380					385			

tgt	gag	ggc	tgc	ccc	ctg	caa	agc	ctg	cac	aag	ctc	tgt	gag	agg	ata	1376
Cys	Glu	Gly	Cys	Pro	Leu	Gln	Ser	Leu	His	Lys	Leu	Cys	Glu	Arg	Ile
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gag	gga	atg	aat	tct	tcc	aaa	aca	aaa	cta	gaa	ctg	caa	aag	cac	ctg	1424
Glu	Gly	Met	Asn	Ser	Ser	Lys	Thr	Lys	Leu	Glu	Leu	Gln	Lys	His	Leu
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acg	aca	tta	acc	aat	cag	gag	cag	gcg	act	att	ttt	gaa	gag	gtt	cag	1472
Thr	Thr	Leu	Thr	Asn	Gln	Glu	Gln	Ala	Thr	Ile	Phe	Glu	Glu	Val	Gln
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aaa	ttg	aga	ccg	aga	aat	gag	cag	cga	gag	aat	gaa	ttg	att	att	tct	1520
Lys	Leu	Arg	Pro	Arg	Asn	Glu	Gln	Arg	Glu	Asn	Glu	Leu	Ile	Ile	Ser
435				440				445					450		

ttt	ctg	aga	tgt	tta	tat	gaa	gag	aaa	cag	aaa	gaa	cac	atc	cat	att	1568
Phe	Leu	Arg	Cys	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	His	Ile	His	Ile
			455				460					465			

ggg	gag	atg	aag	cag	aca	tcg	cag	atg	gca	gca	gag	aat	att	gga	agt	1616
Gly	Glu	Met	Lys	Gln	Thr	Ser	Gln	Met	Ala	Ala	Glu	Asn	Ile	Gly	Ser
		470				475					480				

gaa	tta	cca	ccc	agt	gcc	act	cga	ttt	agg	cta	gat	atg	ctg	aaa	aac	1664
Glu	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ser	Ala	Thr	Arg	Phe	Arg	Leu	Asp	Met	Leu	Lys	Asn
		485				490					495				

aaa	gca	aag	aga	tct	tta	aca	gag	tct	tta	gaa	agt	att	ttg	tcc	cgg	1712
Lys	Ala	Lys	Arg	Ser	Leu	Thr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Glu	Ser	Ile	Leu	Ser	Arg
		500				505					510				

ggt	aat	aaa	gcc	aga	ggc	ctg	cag	gaa	cac	tcc	atc	agt	gtg	gat	ctg	1760
Gly	Asn	Lys	Ala	Arg	Gly	Leu	Gln	Glu	His	Ser	Ile	Ser	Val	Asp	Leu
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gat	agc	tcc	ctg	tct	agt	aca	tta	agt	aac	acc	agc	aaa	gag	cca	tct	1808
Asp	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Leu	Ser	Asn	Thr	Ser	Lys	Glu	Pro	Ser
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gtg tgt gaa aag gag gcc ttg ccc atc tct gag agc tcc ttt aag ctc      1856
Val Cys Glu Lys Glu Ala Leu Pro Ile Ser Glu Ser Ser Phe Lys Leu
        550                 555                 560

ctc ggc tcc tcg gag gac ctg tcc agt gac tcg gag agt cat ctc cca      1904
Leu Gly Ser Ser Glu Asp Leu Ser Ser Asp Ser Glu Ser His Leu Pro
        565                 570                 575

gaa gag cca gct ccg ctg tcg ccc cag cag gcc ttc agg agg cga gca      1952
Glu Glu Pro Ala Pro Leu Ser Pro Gln Gln Ala Phe Arg Arg Arg Ala
        580                 585                 590

aac acc ctg agt cac ttc ccc atc gaa tgc cag gaa cct cca caa cct      2000
Asn Thr Leu Ser His Phe Pro Ile Glu Cys Gln Glu Pro Pro Gln Pro
595                 600                 605                 610

gcc cgg ggg tcc ccg ggg gtt tcg caa agg aaa ctt atg agg tat cac      2048
Ala Arg Gly Ser Pro Gly Val Ser Gln Arg Lys Leu Met Arg Tyr His
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tca gtg agc aca gag acg cct cat gaa cga aag gac ttt gaa tcc aaa      2096
Ser Val Ser Thr Glu Thr Pro His Glu Arg Lys Asp Phe Glu Ser Lys
        630                 635                 640

gca aac cat ctt ggt gat tct ggt ggg act cct gtg aag acc cgg agg      2144
Ala Asn His Leu Gly Asp Ser Gly Gly Thr Pro Val Lys Thr Arg Arg
        645                 650                 655

cat tcc tgg agg cag cag ata ttc ctc cga gta gcc acc ccg cag aag      2192
His Ser Trp Arg Gln Gln Ile Phe Leu Arg Val Ala Thr Pro Gln Lys
        660                 665                 670

gcg tgc gat tct tcc agc aga tat gaa gat tat tca gag ctg gga gag      2240
Ala Cys Asp Ser Ser Ser Arg Tyr Glu Asp Tyr Ser Glu Leu Gly Glu
675             680                 685                 690

ctt ccc cca cga tct cct tta gaa cca gtt tgt gaa gat ggg ccc ttt      2288
Leu Pro Pro Arg Ser Pro Leu Glu Pro Val Cys Glu Asp Gly Pro Phe
        695                 700                 705

ggc ccc cca cca gag gaa aag aaa agg aca tct cgt gag ctc cga gag      2336
Gly Pro Pro Pro Glu Glu Lys Lys Arg Thr Ser Arg Glu Leu Arg Glu
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ctg tgg caa aag gct att ctt caa cag ata ctg ctg ctt aga atg gag      2384
Leu Trp Gln Lys Ala Ile Leu Gln Gln Ile Leu Leu Leu Arg Met Glu
        725                 730                 735

aag gaa aat cag aag ctc caa gcc tct gaa aat gat ttg ctg aac aag      2432
Lys Glu Asn Gln Lys Leu Gln Ala Ser Glu Asn Asp Leu Leu Asn Lys
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cgc ctg aag ctc gat tat gaa gaa att act ccc tgt ctt aaa gaa gta      2480
Arg Leu Lys Leu Asp Tyr Glu Glu Ile Thr Pro Cys Leu Lys Glu Val
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act aca gtg tgg gaa aag atg ctt agc act cca gga aga tca aaa att    2528
Thr Thr Val Trp Glu Lys Met Leu Ser Thr Pro Gly Arg Ser Lys Ile
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aag ttt gac atg gaa aaa atg cac tcg gct gtt ggg caa ggt gtg cca    2576
Lys Phe Asp Met Glu Lys Met His Ser Ala Val Gly Gln Gly Val Pro
                790                 795                 800

cgt cat cac cga ggt gaa atc tgg aaa ttt cta gct gag caa ttc cac    2624
Arg His His Arg Gly Glu Ile Trp Lys Phe Leu Ala Glu Gln Phe His
                805                 810                 815

ctt aaa cac cag ttt ccc agc aaa cag cag cca aag gat gtg cca tac    2672
Leu Lys His Gln Phe Pro Ser Lys Gln Gln Pro Lys Asp Val Pro Tyr
                820                 825                 830

aaa gaa ctc tta aag cag ctg act tcc cag cag cat gcg att ctt att    2720
Lys Glu Leu Leu Lys Gln Leu Thr Ser Gln Gln His Ala Ile Leu Ile
835                 840                 845                 850

gac ctt ggg cga acc ttt cct aca cac cca tac ttc tct gcc cag ctt    2768
Asp Leu Gly Arg Thr Phe Pro Thr His Pro Tyr Phe Ser Ala Gln Leu
                855                 860                 865

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Gly Ala Gly Gln Leu Ser Leu Tyr Asn Ile Leu Lys Ala Tyr Ser Leu
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cta gac cag gaa gtg gga tat tgc caa ggt ctc agc ttt gta gca ggc    2864
Leu Asp Gln Glu Val Gly Tyr Cys Gln Gly Leu Ser Phe Val Ala Gly
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att ttg ctt ctt cat atg agt gag gaa gag gcg ttt aaa atg ctc aag    2912
Ile Leu Leu Leu His Met Ser Glu Glu Glu Ala Phe Lys Met Leu Lys
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ttt ctg atg ttt gac atg ggg ctg cgg aaa cag tat cgg cca gac atg    2960
Phe Leu Met Phe Asp Met Gly Leu Arg Lys Gln Tyr Arg Pro Asp Met
915                 920                 925                 930

att att tta cag atc cag atg tac cag ctc tcg agg ttg ctt cat gat    3008
Ile Ile Leu Gln Ile Gln Met Tyr Gln Leu Ser Arg Leu Leu His Asp
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Tyr His Arg Asp Leu Tyr Asn His Leu Glu Glu His Glu Ile Gly Pro
                950                 955                 960

agc ctc tac gct gcc ccc tgg ttc ctc acc atg ttt gcc tca cag ttc    3104
Ser Leu Tyr Ala Ala Pro Trp Phe Leu Thr Met Phe Ala Ser Gln Phe
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ccg ctg gga ttc gta gcc aga gtc ttt gat atg att ttt ctt cag gga    3152
Pro Leu Gly Phe Val Ala Arg Val Phe Asp Met Ile Phe Leu Gln Gly
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64

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ccc ttg att ctg cag cat gaa aac cta gaa acc ata gtt gac ttt ata      3248
Pro Leu Ile Leu Gln His Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Ile Val Asp Phe Ile
                1015            1020            1025

aaa agc acg cta ccc aac ctt ggc ttg gta cag atg gaa aag acc atc      3296
Lys Ser Thr Leu Pro Asn Leu Gly Leu Val Gln Met Glu Lys Thr Ile
            1030            1035            1040

aat cag gta ttt gaa atg gac atc gct aaa cag tta caa gct tat gaa      3344
Asn Gln Val Phe Glu Met Asp Ile Ala Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala Tyr Glu
            1045            1050            1055

gtt gag tac cac gtc ctt caa gaa gaa ctt atc gat tcc tct cct ctc      3392
Val Glu Tyr His Val Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Ile Asp Ser Ser Pro Leu
            1060            1065            1070

agt gac aac caa aga atg gat aaa tta gag aaa acc aac agc agc tta      3440
Ser Asp Asn Gln Arg Met Asp Lys Leu Glu Lys Thr Asn Ser Ser Leu
1075            1080            1085            1090

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Arg Lys Gln Asn Leu Asp Leu Leu Glu Gln Leu Gln Val Ala Asn Gly
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agg atc caa agc ctt gag gcc acc att gag aag ctc ctg agc agt gag      3536
Arg Ile Gln Ser Leu Glu Ala Thr Ile Glu Lys Leu Leu Ser Ser Glu
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agc aag ctg aag cag gcc atg ctt acc tta gaa ctg gag cgg tcg gcc      3584
Ser Lys Leu Lys Gln Ala Met Leu Thr Leu Glu Leu Glu Arg Ser Ala
            1125            1130            1135

ctg ctg cag acg gtg gag gag ctg cgg cgg cgg agc gca gag ccc agc      3632
Leu Leu Gln Thr Val Glu Glu Leu Arg Arg Arg Ser Ala Glu Pro Ser
            1140            1145            1150

gac cgg gag cct gag tgc acg cag ccc gag ccc acg ggc gac tga          3677
Asp Arg Glu Pro Glu Cys Thr Gln Pro Glu Pro Thr Gly Asp *
1155            1160            1165

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ccaaaacaga aaaacagtga taactgtttt gctgagttcc cagacccttc ccaag atg     178
                                                               Met
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gaa	cca	ata	aca	ttc	aca	gca	agg	aaa	cat	ctg	ctt	cct	aac	gag	gtc	226
Glu	Pro	Ile	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ala	Arg	Lys	His	Leu	Leu	Pro	Asn	Glu	Val	
		5					10				15					

tcg	gtg	gat	ttt	ggc	ctg	cag	ctg	gtg	ggc	tcc	ctg	cct	gtg	cat	tcc	274
Ser	Val	Asp	Phe	Gly	Leu	Gln	Leu	Val	Gly	Ser	Leu	Pro	Val	His	Ser	
		20				25					30					

ctg	acc	acc	atg	ccc	atg	ctg	ccc	tgg	gtt	gtg	gct	gag	gtg	cga	aga	322
Leu	Thr	Thr	Met	Pro	Met	Leu	Pro	Trp	Val	Val	Ala	Glu	Val	Arg	Arg	
	35				40				45							

ctc	agc	agg	cag	tcc	acc	aga	aag	gaa	cct	gta	acc	aag	caa	gtc	cgg	370
Leu	Ser	Arg	Gln	Ser	Thr	Arg	Lys	Glu	Pro	Val	Thr	Lys	Gln	Val	Arg	
50				55				60					65			

ctt	tgc	gtt	tca	ccc	tct	gga	ctg	aga	tgt	gaa	cct	gag	cca	ggg	aga	418
Leu	Cys	Val	Ser	Pro	Ser	Gly	Leu	Arg	Cys	Glu	Pro	Glu	Pro	Gly	Arg	
		70					75				80					

agt	caa	cag	tgg	gat	ccc	ctg	atc	tat	tcc	agc	atc	ttt	gag	tgc	aag	466
Ser	Gln	Gln	Trp	Asp	Pro	Leu	Ile	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Phe	Glu	Cys	Lys	
		85				90					95					

| cct | cag | cgt | gtt | cac | aaa | ctg | att | cac | aac | agt | cat | gac | cca | agt | tac | 514 |

Pro Gln Arg Val His Lys Leu Ile His Asn Ser His Asp Pro Ser Tyr
        100   105   110

ttt gct tgt ctg att aag gaa gac gct gtc cac cgg cag agt atc tgc   562
Phe Ala Cys Leu Ile Lys Glu Asp Ala Val His Arg Gln Ser Ile Cys
        115   120   125

tat gtg ttc aaa gcc gat gat caa aca aaa gtg cct gag atc atc agc   610
Tyr Val Phe Lys Ala Asp Asp Gln Thr Lys Val Pro Glu Ile Ile Ser
130   135   140   145

tcc atc cgt cag gcg ggg aag atc gcc cgg cag gag gag ctg cac tgc   658
Ser Ile Arg Gln Ala Gly Lys Ile Ala Arg Gln Glu Glu Leu His Cys
                150   155   160

ccg tcc gag ttc gac gac acg ttt tcc aag aag ttc gag gtg ctc ttc   706
Pro Ser Glu Phe Asp Asp Thr Phe Ser Lys Lys Phe Glu Val Leu Phe
                165   170   175

tgc ggc cgc gtg acg gtg gcg cac aag aag gct ccg ccg gcc ctg atc   754
Cys Gly Arg Val Thr Val Ala His Lys Lys Ala Pro Pro Ala Leu Ile
        180   185   190

gac gag tgc atc gag aag ttc aat cac gtc agc ggc agc cgg ggg tcc   802
Asp Glu Cys Ile Glu Lys Phe Asn His Val Ser Gly Ser Arg Gly Ser
        195   200   205

gag agc ccc cgc ccc aac ccg ccc cat gcc gcg ccc aca ggg agc cag   850
Glu Ser Pro Arg Pro Asn Pro Pro His Ala Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Gln
210   215   220   225

gag cct gtg cgc agg ccc atg cgc aag tcc ttc tcc cag ccc ggc ctg   898
Glu Pro Val Arg Arg Pro Met Arg Lys Ser Phe Ser Gln Pro Gly Leu
                230   235   240

cgc tcg ctg gcc ttt agg aag gag ctg cag gat ggg ggc ctc cga agc   946
Arg Ser Leu Ala Phe Arg Lys Glu Leu Gln Asp Gly Gly Leu Arg Ser
                245   250   255

agc ggc ttc ttc agc tcc ttc gag gag agc gac att gag aac cac ctc   994
Ser Gly Phe Phe Ser Ser Phe Glu Glu Ser Asp Ile Glu Asn His Leu
        260   265   270

att agc gga cac aat att gtg cag ccc aca gat atc gag gaa aat cga   1042
Ile Ser Gly His Asn Ile Val Gln Pro Thr Asp Ile Glu Glu Asn Arg
        275   280   285

act atg ctc ttc acg att ggc cag tct gaa gtt tac ctc atc agt cct   1090
Thr Met Leu Phe Thr Ile Gly Gln Ser Glu Val Tyr Leu Ile Ser Pro
290   295   300   305

gac acc aaa aaa ata gca ttg gag aaa aat ttt aag gag ata tcc ttt   1138
Asp Thr Lys Lys Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Asn Phe Lys Glu Ile Ser Phe
                310   315   320

tgc tct cag ggc atc aga cac gtg gac cac ttt ggg ttt atc tgt cgg   1186

67

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Cys Ser Gln Gly Ile Arg His Val Asp His Phe Gly Phe Ile Cys Arg
            325                 330                 335

gag tct tcc gga ggt ggc ggc ttt cat ttt gtc tgt tac gtg ttt cag      1234
Glu Ser Ser Gly Gly Gly Gly Phe His Phe Val Cys Tyr Val Phe Gln
            340                 345                 350

tgc aca aat gag gct ctg gtt gat gaa att atg atg acc ctg aaa cag      1282
Cys Thr Asn Glu Ala Leu Val Asp Glu Ile Met Met Thr Leu Lys Gln
            355                 360                 365

gcc ttc acg gtg gcc gca gtg cag cag aca gct aag gcg cca gcc cag      1330
Ala Phe Thr Val Ala Ala Val Gln Gln Thr Ala Lys Ala Pro Ala Gln
370                 375                 380                 385

ctg tgt gag ggc tgc ccc ctg caa agc ctg cac aag ctc tgt gag agg      1378
Leu Cys Glu Gly Cys Pro Leu Gln Ser Leu His Lys Leu Cys Glu Arg
                390                 395                 400

ata gag gga atg aat tct tcc aaa aca aaa cta gaa ctg caa aag cac      1426
Ile Glu Gly Met Asn Ser Ser Lys Thr Lys Leu Glu Leu Gln Lys His
                405                 410                 415

ctg acg aca tta acc aat cag gag cag gcg act att ttt gaa gag gtt      1474
Leu Thr Thr Leu Thr Asn Gln Glu Gln Ala Thr Ile Phe Glu Glu Val
            420                 425                 430

cag aaa ttg aga ccg aga aat gag cag cga gag aat gaa ttg att att      1522
Gln Lys Leu Arg Pro Arg Asn Glu Gln Arg Glu Asn Glu Leu Ile Ile
            435                 440                 445

tct ttt ctg aga tgt tta tat gaa gag aaa cag aaa gaa cac atc cat      1570
Ser Phe Leu Arg Cys Leu Tyr Glu Glu Lys Gln Lys Glu His Ile His
450                 455                 460                 465

att ggg gag atg aag cag aca tcg cag atg gca gca gag aat att gga      1618
Ile Gly Glu Met Lys Gln Thr Ser Gln Met Ala Ala Glu Asn Ile Gly
                470                 475                 480

agt gaa tta cca ccc agt gcc act cga ttt agg cta gat atg ctg aaa      1666
Ser Glu Leu Pro Pro Ser Ala Thr Arg Phe Arg Leu Asp Met Leu Lys
                485                 490                 495

aac aaa gca aag aga tct tta aca gag tct tta gaa agt att ttg tcc      1714
Asn Lys Ala Lys Arg Ser Leu Thr Glu Ser Leu Glu Ser Ile Leu Ser
            500                 505                 510

cgg ggt aat aaa gcc aga ggc ctg cag gaa cac tcc atc agt gtg gat      1762
Arg Gly Asn Lys Ala Arg Gly Leu Gln Glu His Ser Ile Ser Val Asp
            515                 520                 525

ctg gat agc tcc ctg tct agt aca tta agt aac acc agc aaa gag cca      1810
Leu Asp Ser Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Ser Asn Thr Ser Lys Glu Pro
530                 535                 540                 545

tct gtg tgt gaa aag gag gcc ttg ccc atc tct gag agc tcc ttt aag      1858
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Ser Val Cys Glu Lys Glu Ala Leu Pro Ile Ser Glu Ser Ser Phe Lys
              550   555   560

ctc ctc ggc tcc tcg gag gac ctg tcc agt gac tcg gag agt cat ctc   1906
Leu Leu Gly Ser Ser Glu Asp Leu Ser Ser Asp Ser Glu Ser His Leu
              565   570   575

cca gaa gag cca gct ccg ctg tcg ccc cag cag gcc ttc agg agg cga   1954
Pro Glu Glu Pro Ala Pro Leu Ser Pro Gln Gln Ala Phe Arg Arg Arg
              580   585   590

gca aac acc ctg agt cac ttc ccc atc gaa tgc cag gaa cct cca caa   2002
Ala Asn Thr Leu Ser His Phe Pro Ile Glu Cys Gln Glu Pro Pro Gln
              595   600   605

cct gcc cgg ggg tcc ccg ggg gtt tcg caa agg aaa ctt atg agg tat   2050
Pro Ala Arg Gly Ser Pro Gly Val Ser Gln Arg Lys Leu Met Arg Tyr
610   615   620   625

cac tca gtg agc aca gag acg cct cat gaa cga aag gac ttt gaa tcc   2098
His Ser Val Ser Thr Glu Thr Pro His Glu Arg Lys Asp Phe Glu Ser
              630   635   640

aaa gca aac cat ctt ggt gat tct ggt ggg act cct gtg aag acc cgg   2146
Lys Ala Asn His Leu Gly Asp Ser Gly Gly Thr Pro Val Lys Thr Arg
              645   650   655

agg cat tcc tgg agg cag cag ata ttc ctc cga gta gcc acc ccg cag   2194
Arg His Ser Trp Arg Gln Gln Ile Phe Leu Arg Val Ala Thr Pro Gln
              660   665   670

aag gcg tgc gat tct tcc agc aga tat gaa gat tat tca gag ctg gga   2242
Lys Ala Cys Asp Ser Ser Ser Arg Tyr Glu Asp Tyr Ser Glu Leu Gly
              675   680   685

gag ctt ccc cca cga tct cct tta gaa cca gtt tgt gaa gat ggg ccc   2290
Glu Leu Pro Pro Arg Ser Pro Leu Glu Pro Val Cys Glu Asp Gly Pro
690   695   700   705

ttt ggc ccc cca cca gag gaa aag aaa agg aca tct cgt gag ctc cga   2338
Phe Gly Pro Pro Pro Glu Glu Lys Lys Arg Thr Ser Arg Glu Leu Arg
              710   715   720

gag ctg tgg caa aag gct att ctt caa cag ata ctg ctg ctt aga atg   2386
Glu Leu Trp Gln Lys Ala Ile Leu Gln Gln Ile Leu Leu Leu Arg Met
              725   730   735

gag aag gaa aat cag aag ctc caa gcc tct gaa aat gat ttg ctg aac   2434
Glu Lys Glu Asn Gln Lys Leu Gln Ala Ser Glu Asn Asp Leu Leu Asn
              740   745   750

aag cgc ctg aag ctc gat tat gaa gaa att act ccc tgt ctt aaa gaa   2482
Lys Arg Leu Lys Leu Asp Tyr Glu Glu Ile Thr Pro Cys Leu Lys Glu
              755   760   765

gta act aca gtg tgg gaa aag atg ctt agc act cca gga aga tca aaa   2530

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Val Thr Thr Val Trp Glu Lys Met Leu Ser Thr Pro Gly Arg Ser Lys
770             775                 780                 785

att aag ttt gac atg gaa aaa atg cac tcg gct gtt ggg caa ggt gtg     2578
Ile Lys Phe Asp Met Glu Lys Met His Ser Ala Val Gly Gln Gly Val
                790                 795                 800

cca cgt cat cac cga ggt gaa atc tgg aaa ttt cta gct gag caa ttc     2626
Pro Arg His His Arg Gly Glu Ile Trp Lys Phe Leu Ala Glu Gln Phe
            805                 810                 815

cac ctt aaa cac cag ttt ccc agc aaa cag cag cca aag gat gtg cca     2674
His Leu Lys His Gln Phe Pro Ser Lys Gln Gln Pro Lys Asp Val Pro
            820                 825                 830

tac aaa gaa ctc tta aag cag ctg act tcc cag cag cat gcg att ctt     2722
Tyr Lys Glu Leu Leu Lys Gln Leu Thr Ser Gln Gln His Ala Ile Leu
            835                 840                 845

att gac ctt ggg cga acc ttt cct aca cac cca tac ttc tct gcc cag     2770
Ile Asp Leu Gly Arg Thr Phe Pro Thr His Pro Tyr Phe Ser Ala Gln
850             855                 860                 865

ctt gga gca gga cag cta tcg ctt tac aac att ttg aag gcc tac tca     2818
Leu Gly Ala Gly Gln Leu Ser Leu Tyr Asn Ile Leu Lys Ala Tyr Ser
                870                 875                 880

ctt cta gac cag gaa gtg gga tat tgc caa ggt ctc agc ttt gta gca     2866
Leu Leu Asp Gln Glu Val Gly Tyr Cys Gln Gly Leu Ser Phe Val Ala
            885                 890                 895

ggc att ttg ctt ctt cat atg agt gag gaa gag gcg ttt aaa atg ctc     2914
Gly Ile Leu Leu Leu His Met Ser Glu Glu Glu Ala Phe Lys Met Leu
            900                 905                 910

aag ttt ctg atg ttt gac atg ggg ctg cgg aaa cag tat cgg cca gac     2962
Lys Phe Leu Met Phe Asp Met Gly Leu Arg Lys Gln Tyr Arg Pro Asp
            915                 920                 925

atg att att tta cag atc cag atg tac cag ctc tcg agg ttg ctt cat     3010
Met Ile Ile Leu Gln Ile Gln Met Tyr Gln Leu Ser Arg Leu Leu His
930             935                 940                 945

gat tac cac aga gac ctc tac aat cac ctg gag gag cac gag atc ggc     3058
Asp Tyr His Arg Asp Leu Tyr Asn His Leu Glu Glu His Glu Ile Gly
                950                 955                 960

ccc agc ctc tac gct gcc ccc tgg ttc ctc acc atg ttt gcc tca cag     3106
Pro Ser Leu Tyr Ala Ala Pro Trp Phe Leu Thr Met Phe Ala Ser Gln
            965                 970                 975

ttc ccg ctg gga ttc gta gcc aga gtc ttt gat atg att ttt ctt cag     3154
Phe Pro Leu Gly Phe Val Ala Arg Val Phe Asp Met Ile Phe Leu Gln
            980                 985                 990

gga aca gag gtc ata ttt aaa gtg gct tta agt ctg ttg gga agc cat     3202
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              Gly Thr Glu Val Ile Phe Lys Val Ala Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser His
                  995             1000             1005

aag ccc ttg att ctg cag cat gaa aac cta gaa acc ata gtt gac ttt         3250
Lys Pro Leu Ile Leu Gln His Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Ile Val Asp Phe
1010             1015             1020             1025

ata aaa agc acg cta ccc aac ctt ggc ttg gta cag atg gaa aag acc         3298
Ile Lys Ser Thr Leu Pro Asn Leu Gly Leu Val Gln Met Glu Lys Thr
                  1030             1035             1040

atc aat cag gta ttt gaa atg gac atc gct aaa cag tta caa gct tat         3346
Ile Asn Gln Val Phe Glu Met Asp Ile Ala Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala Tyr
             1045             1050             1055

gaa gtt gag tac cac gtc ctt caa gaa gaa ctt atc gat tcc tct cct         3394
Glu Val Glu Tyr His Val Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Ile Asp Ser Ser Pro
             1060             1065             1070

ctc agt gac aac caa aga atg gat aaa tta gag aaa acc aac agc agc         3442
Leu Ser Asp Asn Gln Arg Met Asp Lys Leu Glu Lys Thr Asn Ser Ser
             1075             1080             1085

tta cgc aaa cag aac ctt gac ctc ctt gaa cag ttg cag gtg gca aat         3490
Leu Arg Lys Gln Asn Leu Asp Leu Leu Glu Gln Leu Gln Val Ala Asn
1090             1095             1100             1105

ggt agg atc caa agc ctt gag gcc acc att gag aag ctc ctg agc agt         3538
Gly Arg Ile Gln Ser Leu Glu Ala Thr Ile Glu Lys Leu Leu Ser Ser
                  1110             1115             1120

gag agc aag ctg aag cag gcc atg ctt acc tta gaa ctg gag cgg tcg         3586
Glu Ser Lys Leu Lys Gln Ala Met Leu Thr Leu Glu Leu Glu Arg Ser
             1125             1130             1135

gcc ctg ctg cag acg gtg gag gag ctg cgg cgg cgg agc gca gag ccc         3634
Ala Leu Leu Gln Thr Val Glu Glu Leu Arg Arg Arg Ser Ala Glu Pro
             1140             1145             1150

agc gac cgg gag cct gag tgc acg cag ccc gag ccc acg ggc gac tga         3682
Ser Asp Arg Glu Pro Glu Cys Thr Gln Pro Glu Pro Thr Gly Asp  *
             1155             1160             1165

cagctctgca ggagagattg caacaccatc ccacactgtc caggccttaa ctgagaggga        3742
cagaagacgc tggaaggaga gaaggaagcg ggaagtgtgc ttctcaggga ggaaaccggc        3802
ttgccagcaa gtagattctt acgaactcca acttgcaatt cagggggcat gtcccagtgt        3862
ttttttttgtt gtttttagat actaaatcgt cccttctcca gtcctgatta ctgtacacag       3922
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Met	Glu	Pro	Ile	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ala	Arg	Lys	His	Leu	Leu	Pro	Asn	Glu
1				5					10					15	

| Val | Ser | Val | Asp | Phe | Gly | Leu | Gln | Leu | Val | Gly | Ser | Leu | Pro | Val | His |
| | | | 20 | | | | | 25 | | | | | 30 | | |

Ser Leu Thr Thr Met Pro Met Leu Pro Trp Val Val Ala Glu Val Arg
          35   40   45

Arg Leu Ser Arg Gln Ser Thr Arg Lys Glu Pro Val Thr Lys Gln Val
      50   55   60

Arg Leu Cys Val Ser Pro Ser Gly Leu Arg Cys Glu Pro Glu Pro Gly
65   70   75   80

Arg Ser Gln Gln Trp Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ser Ser Ile Phe Glu Cys
                85   90   95

Lys Pro Gln Arg Val His Lys Leu Ile His Asn Ser His Asp Pro Ser
              100   105   110

Tyr Phe Ala Cys Leu Ile Lys Glu Asp Ala Val His Arg Gln Ser Ile
          115   120   125

Cys Tyr Val Phe Lys Ala Asp Asp Gln Thr Lys Val Pro Glu Ile Ile
      130   135   140

Ser Ser Ile Arg Gln Ala Gly Lys Ile Ala Arg Gln Glu Glu Leu His
145   150   155   160

Cys Pro Ser Glu Phe Asp Asp Thr Phe Ser Lys Lys Phe Glu Val Leu
              165   170   175

Phe Cys Gly Arg Val Thr Val Ala His Lys Lys Ala Pro Pro Ala Leu
          180   185   190

Ile Asp Glu Cys Ile Glu Lys Phe Asn His Val Ser Gly Ser Arg Gly
          195   200   205

Ser Glu Ser Pro Arg Pro Asn Pro Pro His Ala Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser
      210   215   220

Gln Glu Pro Val Arg Arg Pro Met Arg Lys Ser Phe Ser Gln Pro Gly
225   230   235   240

Leu Arg Ser Leu Ala Phe Arg Lys Glu Leu Gln Asp Gly Gly Leu Arg
              245   250   255

Ser Ser Gly Phe Phe Ser Ser Phe Glu Glu Ser Asp Ile Glu Asn His
          260   265   270

Leu Ile Ser Gly His Asn Ile Val Gln Pro Thr Asp Ile Glu Glu Asn
          275   280   285

Arg Thr Met Leu Phe Thr Ile Gly Gln Ser Glu Val Tyr Leu Ile Ser
      290   295   300

Pro Asp Thr Lys Lys Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Asn Phe Lys Glu Ile Ser

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      305                 310                 315                 320
Phe Cys Ser Gln Gly Ile Arg His Val Asp His Phe Gly Phe Ile Cys
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Arg Glu Ser Ser Gly Gly Gly Gly Phe His Phe Val Cys Tyr Val Phe
                     340                 345                 350
Gln Cys Thr Asn Glu Ala Leu Val Asp Glu Ile Met Met Thr Leu Lys
                     355                 360                 365
Gln Ala Phe Thr Val Ala Ala Val Gln Gln Thr Ala Lys Ala Pro Ala
                 370                 375                 380
Gln Leu Cys Glu Gly Cys Pro Leu Gln Ser Leu His Lys Leu Cys Glu
     385                 390                 395                 400
Arg Ile Glu Gly Met Asn Ser Ser Lys Thr Lys Leu Glu Leu Gln Lys
                     405                 410                 415
His Leu Thr Thr Leu Thr Asn Gln Glu Gln Ala Thr Ile Phe Glu Glu
                     420                 425                 430
Val Gln Lys Leu Arg Pro Arg Asn Glu Gln Arg Glu Asn Glu Leu Ile
                     435                 440                 445
Ile Ser Phe Leu Arg Cys Leu Tyr Glu Glu Lys Gln Lys Glu His Ile
                 450                 455                 460
His Ile Gly Glu Met Lys Gln Thr Ser Gln Met Ala Ala Glu Asn Ile
     465                 470                 475                 480
Gly Ser Glu Leu Pro Pro Ser Ala Thr Arg Phe Arg Leu Asp Met Leu
                 485                 490                 495
Lys Asn Lys Ala Lys Arg Ser Leu Thr Glu Ser Leu Glu Ser Ile Leu
                 500                 505                 510
Ser Arg Gly Asn Lys Ala Arg Gly Leu Gln Glu His Ser Ile Ser Val
             515                 520                 525
Asp Leu Asp Ser Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Ser Asn Thr Ser Lys Glu
     530                 535                 540
Pro Ser Val Cys Glu Lys Glu Ala Leu Pro Ile Ser Glu Ser Ser Phe
     545                 550                 555                 560
Lys Leu Leu Gly Ser Ser Glu Asp Leu Ser Ser Asp Ser Glu Ser His
                 565                 570                 575
Leu Pro Glu Glu Pro Ala Pro Leu Ser Pro Gln Gln Ala Phe Arg Arg
                 580                 585                 590
Arg Ala Asn Thr Leu Ser His Phe Pro Ile Glu Cys Gln Glu Pro Pro
             595                 600                 605
Gln Pro Ala Arg Gly Ser Pro Gly Val Ser Gln Arg Lys Leu Met Arg
         610                 615                 620
Tyr His Ser Val Ser Thr Glu Thr Pro His Glu Arg Lys Asp Phe Glu
     625                 630                 635                 640
Ser Lys Ala Asn His Leu Gly Asp Ser Gly Gly Thr Pro Val Lys Thr
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              645                 650                 655
Arg Arg His Ser Trp Arg Gln Gln Ile Phe Leu Arg Val Ala Thr Pro
              660                 665                 670
Gln Lys Ala Cys Asp Ser Ser Ser Arg Tyr Glu Asp Tyr Ser Glu Leu
              675                 680                 685
Gly Glu Leu Pro Pro Arg Ser Pro Leu Glu Pro Val Cys Glu Asp Gly
     690                 695                 700
Pro Phe Gly Pro Pro Pro Glu Glu Lys Lys Arg Thr Ser Arg Glu Leu
705                 710                 715                 720
Arg Glu Leu Trp Gln Lys Ala Ile Leu Gln Gln Ile Leu Leu Leu Arg
                   725                 730                 735
Met Glu Lys Glu Asn Gln Lys Leu Gln Ala Ser Glu Asn Asp Leu Leu
                   740                 745                 750
Asn Lys Arg Leu Lys Leu Asp Tyr Glu Glu Ile Thr Pro Cys Leu Lys
          755                 760                 765
Glu Val Thr Thr Val Trp Glu Lys Met Leu Ser Thr Pro Gly Arg Ser
          770                 775                 780
Lys Ile Lys Phe Asp Met Glu Lys Met His Ser Ala Val Gly Gln Gly
785                 790                 795                 800
Val Pro Arg His His Arg Gly Glu Ile Trp Lys Phe Leu Ala Glu Gln
                   805                 810                 815
Phe His Leu Lys His Gln Phe Pro Ser Lys Gln Gln Pro Lys Asp Val
                   820                 825                 830
Pro Tyr Lys Glu Leu Leu Lys Gln Leu Thr Ser Gln Gln His Ala Ile
          835                 840                 845
Leu Ile Asp Leu Gly Arg Thr Phe Pro Thr His Pro Tyr Phe Ser Ala
     850                 855                 860
Gln Leu Gly Ala Gly Gln Leu Ser Leu Tyr Asn Ile Leu Lys Ala Tyr
865                 870                 875                 880
Ser Leu Leu Asp Gln Glu Val Gly Tyr Cys Gln Gly Leu Ser Phe Val
                   885                 890                 895
Ala Gly Ile Leu Leu Leu His Met Ser Glu Glu Ala Phe Lys Met
                   900                 905                 910
Leu Lys Phe Leu Met Phe Asp Met Gly Leu Arg Lys Gln Tyr Arg Pro
          915                 920                 925
Asp Met Ile Ile Leu Gln Ile Gln Met Tyr Gln Leu Ser Arg Leu Leu
          930                 935                 940
His Asp Tyr His Arg Asp Leu Tyr Asn His Leu Glu Glu His Glu Ile
945                 950                 955                 960
Gly Pro Ser Leu Tyr Ala Ala Pro Trp Phe Leu Thr Met Phe Ala Ser
                   965                 970                 975
Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Phe Val Ala Arg Val Phe Asp Met Ile Phe Leu
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                 980              985                 990
Gln Gly Thr Glu Val Ile Phe Lys Val Ala Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser
        995                  1000                  1005
His Lys Pro Leu Ile Leu Gln His Glu Asn Leu Glu Thr Ile Val Asp
    1010                  1015                  1020
Phe Ile Lys Ser Thr Leu Pro Asn Leu Gly Leu Val Gln Met Glu Lys
1025                  1030                  1035                  1040
Thr Ile Asn Gln Val Phe Glu Met Asp Ile Ala Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala
                 1045                  1050                  1055
Tyr Glu Val Glu Tyr His Val Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Ile Asp Ser Ser
             1060                  1065                  1070
Pro Leu Ser Asp Asn Gln Arg Met Asp Lys Leu Glu Lys Thr Asn Ser
        1075                  1080                  1085
Ser Leu Arg Lys Gln Asn Leu Asp Leu Leu Glu Gln Leu Gln Val Ala
        1090                  1095                  1100
Asn Gly Arg Ile Gln Ser Leu Glu Ala Thr Ile Glu Lys Leu Leu Ser
1105                  1110                  1115                  1120
Ser Glu Ser Lys Leu Lys Gln Ala Met Leu Thr Leu Glu Leu Glu Arg
                 1125                  1130                  1135
Ser Ala Leu Leu Gln Thr Val Glu Glu Leu Arg Arg Arg Ser Ala Glu
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Pro Ser Asp Arg Glu Pro Glu Cys Thr Gln Pro Glu Pro Thr Gly Asp
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